

MacGregor scheme to beat shortage

Local opt-out plan to free teachers' pay

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS will be able to opt out of national pay bargaining and strike their own deals with local leaders of teachers' unions under sweeping reforms designed to let market forces solve the growing problem of staff shortages.

John MacGregor, the education secretary, has won the backing of Margaret Thatcher and cabinet colleagues for a new approach to determining school pay and is expected to make a Commons statement on his scheme early next week.

Labour-controlled councils and the Opposition will criticise his proposals, accusing him of dividing the profession and the education service. The leaders of the big teachers' unions will also fiercely oppose the move, which they will see as an assault on their considerable power. Their aim will be to persuade members to boycott local negotiations.

It is understood, however, that a number of Tory councils are keen to break with national bargaining on salaries and conditions and pay the market rate to recruit and retain teachers in short supply. Conservative councils such as Wandsworth and Westminster are believed to be among education authorities pressing for greater flexibility in setting salary levels.

Mr MacGregor's announcement will follow his disclosure earlier this week that teaching vacancies have risen by more than 2,000 in the last two years. Problems are particularly acute in London and in certain subjects, including mathematics, science and modern languages, and he believes that the best way of attracting qualified staff is to give education authorities the freedom to compete with salary levels in industry.

Local flexibility in determining pay and conditions would also make it easier for the maintained sector to compete with the private sector, where salaries tend to be higher, and where there are often benefits such as subsidised housing.

Mr MacGregor's move will



MacGregor: won cabinet backing for reforms

also be seen as part of a wider move by the government to unravel national pay bargaining in the public sector. Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, has expressed an interest in scrapping health service review bodies, and earlier this week Eric Caines, the NHS director of personnel, predicted that they could be gone within two years.

The education secretary's announcement will foreshadow a bill in the next session of parliament to restore teachers' negotiating rights. These were scrapped by Kenneth Baker, his predecessor, in 1987 after damaging strikes over pay and conditions. Since then, teachers' pay has been determined by the interim advisory committee, a form of temporary review body, which has taken evidence before making recommendations to the government.

Mr MacGregor will act on proposals he put forward in April for reviving direct national negotiations between the teachers' unions and their local authority employers. The government would have no presence at the bargaining table, but it would have the right to over-ride an agreement if it exceeded the range of white-collar settlements for the year in question. There would also be a deadline for the completion of negotiations. In the event of a stalemate, a body similar to the committee would be asked to intervene.

However, the proposals to allow councils to withdraw

from the national forum and reach their own deals will prove the most controversial. In the consultation period that finished last month, authorities expressed concern about the prospect of teachers being lured across council boundaries by the prospect of more attractive terms in a neighbouring authority. This is particularly likely to happen in London where the boroughs could find themselves in fierce competition for well-qualified and experienced staff. The consultation exercise failed to produce an agreement among the teachers' unions about the best way forward.

Mr MacGregor hinted at his move earlier this week in an interview in *The Times*, when he said that staff shortages were concentrated in particular areas and subjects, and spoke of measures to alleviate the difficulty. "The willingness to pay differential pay for people who have skills which have a high demand in the market place has to be one of them," he said.

Education department sources have confirmed the education secretary's determination to break with decades of national pay scales and to inject flexibility into a system covering 400,000 staff. The system has already been made less rigid by a combination of incentive allowances and bonus payments in shortage subjects and areas.

One said: "The market value of someone with skills in chemistry and physics is higher than that of someone with a cookery qualification. You just cannot continue to pay them both the same."

Mr MacGregor's scheme will contain safeguards against possible abuses of local bargaining. Local education authorities and governing bodies of grant-maintained schools wishing to go it alone will have to apply to the education secretary for permission to withdraw from national negotiations and state the machinery they intended to put in place.

Authorities would also have to consult the governors of their schools and local teachers' unions before making an application. Governors of grant-maintained schools would have to seek the views of their staff. In addition, the education secretary would have to give his consent to early changes in local pay bargaining arrangements.

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Plunder at Open

JAMIE Spence, a little-known golfer from Kent, came spectacularly into prominence on the second day of the Open championship at St Andrews yesterday. After a sedate level par 72 on Thursday he plundered eight birdies from the Old Course for a 65.

Spence, aged 27, had never competed in the Open before. His total for two rounds, 137, brought him within one stroke of the leader in the club house, Payne Stewart, the United States PGA champion.

In the second one-day international at Trent Bridge yesterday, India beat England by five wickets with two overs remaining to clinch the Texaco Trophy.

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Holidays start with hottest 1990 day

By RAY CLANCY

JUDGES and barristers took off their wigs and gowns, ice creams melted in the 32C (90F) heat and city workers left early to enjoy the last hours of the hottest day in Britain so far this year.

Bronzed workmen downed tools in the midday sun, sunbathers perspired under the shade of trees in central London parks, dogs panted and even the inability of the nation's thirsty hedgehogs to get enough to drink was highlighted.

As the school holidays begin the scorching temperatures are expected again over much of the country today but cooler air on Sunday could make the weekend more bearable although still sunny, weathermen said. Only Scotland failed to bask in the high temperatures but golfers at the Open championship at St Andrews found the 22C (72F) more pleasing.

In Japan, a similar heatwave has led to three deaths from heatstroke, a record number of ambulance calls and fears about water shortages. The temperature reached 40C (104F), the fourth highest ever recorded.

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Eight warnings before Stock Exchange blast

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AN IRA bomber concealed a time bomb inside the Stock Exchange hours or even days before it exploded yesterday, causing considerable damage, closing the building for a time and halting some trading, although no one was injured.

The bomb, thought to contain up to 10lb of explosive, could have injured or killed many workers within the exchange, which employs 900, but a series of telephone warnings began over 30 minutes before the device exploded. About 300 staff were cleared from the exchange in Threadneedle Street, well before the bomb exploded. The blast came just as the morning rush hour should have been slackening.

The IRA has not given

warnings on the mainland for

many years but this time there were eight in 20 minutes to police, the exchange, Reuters news agency, the fire brigade, the Salvation Army and the Financial Times. One man, with an Irish accent, is thought to have made the calls using a code sign that has not been used before.

Police believe the bomb, left in the men's toilets behind the public gallery overlooking the trading floor, was placed early yesterday morning, over night or perhaps earlier. The toilet was cleaned yesterday morning, suggesting the bomb could have been hidden in or behind a water closet or loosened tiles. It blew a hole in the rear of the exchange causing damage to about 10 per cent of the building and closing the London Traded Options Mar-

ket for the rest of the day, although the exchange confirmed it would reopen on Monday.

Elsewhere trading, which is carried out on computer screens at individual broking firms, continued as normal. The exchange's central computer is in the East End and was unaffected. The lack of computer staff however stopped the exchange calculating the volume of shares traded on the day or the level of the FT-30, 500, or all share indices.

By chance or calculation the IRA team chose the eighth anniversary of the attacks in Hyde Park and Regent's Park for their latest bomb.

Analysis, reaction, page 2
'Convenient' bomb, page 39

North conviction is overturned by court

From MARTIN FLETCHER, WASHINGTON

IN A surprise ruling, a US appellate court overturned one of Oliver North's three Iran-Contra convictions, paving the way for the possible reversal of the other convictions.

In a majority ruling a three-judge panel decided that the former Marine and White House aide was entitled to a fresh trial on the charge that he shredded sensitive administration documents because

his jury was given erroneous instructions by the judge.

The panel also ordered Judge Gerhard Gesell to investigate whether the prosecution's evidence in last year's trial was "tainted" by North's own televised testimony to a congressional committee while he was under immunity from prosecution.

Full report, page 9

Fly-by-night smuggler lands fellows in trouble

From GAVIN BELL
IN JOHANNESBURG

FETED as a celebrity in Oranjemund, Namibia, its home town, after flying into a police station with a harness containing £2,500 worth of smuggled uncut diamonds strapped to its back, a wayward racing pigeon has landed all its feathered fellows in the country in trouble.

The authorities have ordered all pigeon fanciers to register their charges after the Oranjemund bird, winging its way in darkness across the forbidden territory of the country's heavily guarded diamond-mining area, apparently lost its way and selected the Oranjemund station of CDM, the security arm of the De

Beers mining corporation, as a landing site.

Last year in their area, thanks to an elaborate security net involving Jeep and helicopter patrols, body searches and lie-detector tests, police recovered diamonds worth more than £2 million from thieving miners. The toes and heels of miners' boots are regularly used as nefarious hiding places. Now, it seems, pigeons are being recruited as accomplices.

Policemen fed and watered the wayward Oranjemund bird and released it in the hope that it would immediately fly home. After only a short flight, however, it returned to the police station. The police did not give up. Next day the bird was again

released and this time it led the police to its loft at the home of Paul Jordi, the local assistant postmaster who, with an associate, was promptly arrested and charged with illegal diamond dealing. The two men appeared in court and were released on bail.

Chief Inspector Hennie Brink, head of CDM's gold and diamond branch, said it was the first such case to be reported in Namibia, although the "fly-by-night" method has previously been used in South Africa. Keith Whitelock, general manager of CDM, said: "It's quite amusing, but actually it's an old trick."

Colin Osman, editor of Britain's *The Racing Pigeon* magazine, disagrees about its amusement value. He

said last night that, if the story were true, "it is disgraceful to use a pigeon in a way which could bring more restrictions upon a sport which is already tied down with far too many stupid agricultural ministry rules. People who race pigeons do not wish to be associated in any way with international diamond smugglers."

He conceded that it would be possible for homing pigeons to transport small quantities of drugs across the English Channel from the Continent. "The irony is that you would still have to smuggle your pigeon out of Britain in the first place to put your plan into operation. There would be a risk that in doing so you would impair its homing instinct."

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Degrees from the universities of Wales and York are published today on page 35.

Saturday Review

The doyen of designers



Yves Saint Laurent talks to Liz Smith about life and the threat of death, and his partners talk about him

Both halves of Woody Allen

His last film excursion was pure comedy. In his new film, Allen's Hamlet side re-emerges

Tales from the shore

An enquiry into the renaissance along Britain's canals and a survey of our beaches

WEEKEND LIVING

At home with a liquid asset



Installing a swimming pool has become a DIY growth area. What are the costs and pitfalls?

Knight of the nomadic life

Sir James Savile, who has "seven residences but no homes", on his nomadic life as the "archetypal single fellow"

SPORT

Wheeling into Paris



Can Greg LeMond win the Tour de France, which ends tomorrow in Paris on one of the biggest sports weekends of the summer?

WEEKEND MONEY

Banking for insomniacs

A chequebook at 3am? The Times spends a night at the bank that never closes

Spend to lend

The company that offers a 20 per cent no-risk return to investors who are willing to become money lenders

Crossword prizes

From today, the first five correct solutions to The Times Saturday crossword will win Parker Duofold pens worth £1.25 each

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IRA strategists maintain pressure through array of targets

By STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE attack on the Stock Exchange yesterday shows that the IRA strategists behind the latest mainland campaign are intent on maintaining pressure and keeping the police constantly on the run with a widening array of targets. On occasion the attackers have blundered or failed, but the campaign is continuing, stepping up in gear over the past six months.

The attack on the Stock Exchange is the first for some years in which the IRA has given a warning. The choice of such a prestigious economic target underlines the fact that the active service units are being aimed more widely and unpredictably than in any campaign since the 1970s.

The latest attack offers the IRA enormous propaganda value, since the bomb will not only dominate national news but also be fastened on

by journalists from other countries. The bomb could be part of a policy of trying to undermine economic and commercial life in London, much as the IRA has tried to do in Belfast.

In the campaigns of the 1970s and 1980s, the IRA units concentrated largely on military or establishment targets rather than the commercial world, although there were attacks aimed at disrupting shopping streets in London and other cities. The active service units could be learning the value of disruption. Police believe that the bomb left in a litter bin in the Strand two weeks ago was put there by the IRA and was aimed originally at a nearby recruiting office. The traffic problems caused by the bomb were completely out of proportion to the size of the device and the effort in planting it.

Since the campaign began in the summer of 1988 the IRA has mounted 16 attacks, 11 of them

since February. The active service units have overcome the loss of three explosives caches to police and have re-equipped. As the attacks began to increase this year Scotland Yard issued a warning that the IRA intended to run a lengthy campaign. It is not clear why the IRA has chosen a prolonged mainland campaign rather than the hit and run attacks of the 1980s, but there is no doubt that the IRA units are being directed to find and exploit weak points.

• The busiest part of the Stock Exchange since the changes of 1986 that heralded electronic computer share dealing has been the public gallery where the bomb was placed (Ray Clancy writes).

Parties of children and foreign tourists can listen to a commentary and stare through windows at an almost empty space. The gallery, on the first floor of the 23-storey Stock Exchange building in Threadneedle Street, overlooks the

old trading floor. The floor used to be famous for its bustle and bustle as jobbers dashed between hexagonal booths in search of the best deals. Now, however, only a quarter of the space is used by the traded options market. Visitors are often puzzled by the deserted appearance of what is still regarded as the temple of British capitalism.

The building is the backbone of the stock market administration and about 2,600 people work there. Since 1986, electronic share dealing and the intense pace of the market has meant that no deals are now agreed by the traditional method of brokers visiting the different jobbers' pitches on the floor to obtain the best price.

The once-familiar sight of the jobber standing outside his hexagonal booth marking up his buying and selling prices and recording his deals in a little book are part of the great institution's history. Market-makers now sit in electronic

dealing rooms in offices away from the main tower, which was built in the 1960s after the Stock Exchange outgrew the classical dimensions of the 1884 building designed by J J Cole. Prices appear on SEAQ (Stock Exchange Automated Quotations) screens and everyone is at their desk by 7.30am for the latest prices from Tokyo.

The Stock Exchange, which was formally constituted on its present site in 1802, had an early history of rowdiness. Tales of vicious behaviour, disorderly conduct and rivalry were commonplace as the market moved into the 20th century. In modern times the worst disruption was caused by the storm of October 1987 that caused power failures and prevented people getting to work. Dealings were crippled by a suspension of the exchange's central electronic system during the morning although limited trading was resumed by luncheon.

Bombers may have posed as Stock Exchange visitors

By MARK SOISTER AND LIN JENKINS

THE IRA terrorists who planted a bomb that exploded in the Stock Exchange yesterday are believed to have walked in unchallenged with one of the groups that visit the public gallery each day.

Without the telephone warning 45 minutes before the explosion, prompting the evacuation of the building, there could have been great loss of life and many casualties, Commander Hugh Moore of the City of London Police said yesterday. Most of the 3,000 workforce would have been at their desks by the time the bomb went off, in an area frequently visited by parties of schoolchildren.

Mr Moore said: "People would have been killed if they had been in the building at the time. There could have been many casualties and many fatalities if we had not been able to clear the building."

The attack signals a change of tactics by the IRA. Although still focusing on so-called soft targets, the aim appears to be to create eco-

nomic disruption rather than loss of civilian life. The Stock Exchange symbolises the heart of the British establishment and shows the random nature of this latest campaign, making it difficult for police to formulate an effective anti-terrorist policy. The bomb, containing 10lb of high explosive, had been left in the men's lavatory and exploded at 8.49am, minutes after about 300 people had left in the utmost contempt."

He added: "Staff would have been arriving in very large numbers and would have caught the full force of the blast as they came in. We perform an important economic function and I know this was an attempt to disrupt that function and the economy as a whole."

Debbie Simpson, aged 23, an options dealer from Swanley, Kent, was in a dealing box at the edge of market floor talking to a client on the telephone when the fire alarm went off. She failed to hear the accompanying bomb warning on the tannoy.

She said: "I thought it was a fire alarm and stayed working for another 20 minutes. I walked out onto the floor and there was no one there. I realised it must be serious and left by the back entrance where there were police everywhere. Minutes later I heard a very loud bang."

Tony Chris, aged 25, an options dealer, said: "People did not seem to be taking the alarms seriously at first."

The incident brought widespread disruption to the City, with thousands of people standing in the streets as police checked other buildings for further devices. Traffic was disrupted by closed roads. Some City workers were sent home early.

Security at the Stock Exchange will be reviewed. At the moment groups of schoolchildren and tourists interested in the financial systems form the bulk of the visitors.

Colin Tebbs, the administrator, said: "We are a business, not a military base. Security was adequate." No ticket is allowed on to the floor without a pass or after being vouched for by an employee, and visitors are checked in by civilian security guards and the Stock Exchange team of waiters. People who want a tour have to book but anybody can go to the visitors' gallery, although random checks are made.

The F1 index went up with a bang this morning; this is God speaking. If you don't give your hearts to God, the next bomb that goes off will be in the Bank of England. Or maybe the number 8 bus."

Seeing the teabag and sensing crisis, a bystander performed emergency first aid and bought the preacher a cup of tea from a cafe. "I have no need of tea; I have tasted God and that is enough," said the preacher loftily.

At which moment there was another almighty bang. But it was only a plank being dropped from a great height on a nearby building site. Divine intervention, like a trade option market, had taken the rest of the day off.

"God is punishing the City for its iniquity," he roared. "Why don't you go away," shouted back a bronzed labourer, although those were not his precise words.

"I told you in 1983 that something was going to happen. I told the Stock Exchange messengers, but they stood there in their little red collars and took the mickey out of me," he declaimed, thrashing the air with his bible.

"We have departed away from the oracles of God. If you think your government can save you, you're wrong. Thatcher has been blaring away about the economy for ten years, and she still hasn't got it right. Hear the words of Jesus: when they don't receive you in this city, shake the dust off your feet."

"I lived through the blitz, mate," shouted back another of McAlpine's Fusiliers apropos nothing in particular, unless he was comparing that experience with living through Thatcherism. "There hasn't

been a day I've preached the gospel in this city when I haven't had abuse," said the preacher. "I wonder why, mate?" said the congregation.

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Thais held British girls after drugs tip from London

By MARK SOISTER

THE parents of two teenage British girls held in Thailand on heroin smuggling charges arrived in Bangkok last night as it was confirmed that the girls had been arrested after a tip-off from intelligence sources in London.

From the time Patricia Cahill, aged 17, and Karyn Smith, aged 19, arrived in Bangkok they were followed by undercover Thai narcotics agents in an operation that illustrates the close co-operation between international agencies.

Thai police had been alerted by Customs and Excise, who had become suspicious about the flight arrangements made by the girls. They had bought air tickets direct to Bangkok with return via Amsterdam, and the Cambia, well-known drug havens.

A source in London said yesterday: "The itineraries stuck out like a sore thumb, so Thai authorities were told to expect two girls from Britain who should be watched. It seems everything went like clockwork."

Miss Cahill, from Birmingham, and Miss Smith, from Solihull, were watched on their journey north and followed on their return to the capital. They were arrested at Don Muang airport, Bangkok, with 67lbs of high-grade heroin.

Central figure in £43m drugs plot waits for sentence

By DANIEL TREISMAN

EDWARD Richardson, one of the brothers notorious for their gangland activities in the 1960s, will have to wait three months to be sentenced for his part in a £43 million drug smuggling plot.

Richardson, aged 54, a scrap metal merchant, is contesting the Crown's estimate of the profits he made from one of the most lucrative drug operations detected in Britain. He was found guilty of four charges involved with plotting to smuggle cocaine through Gatwick, cocaine and cannabis through Southampton, and assisting others to retain the benefits of drug trafficking. He was cleared of plotting to smuggle cannabis through Gatwick.

Yesterday, Frederick Greenfield, aged 41, a publican and former baggage handler, of Bowburn Co Durham, was cleared at Winchester Crown Court of two charges of conspiring to smuggle cocaine and cannabis through Gatwick airport. He had said he was paid £30,000 to prevent suitcases passing through customs. He said he suspected they contained pornographic material.

Richardson, who served nine years in prison for his part in his brother's crime empire, was a central figure in the network which smuggled large amounts of drugs from South America.

Two tonnes of cannabis and 153 kilos of cocaine, the largest seizure of cocaine targeted directly at the UK, were confiscated by Customs investigators at Portsmouth. The haul, hidden in a consignment of balsa wood on board a ferry from Le Havre, marked the end of an 18-month surveillance called Operation Revolution. The cocaine, shipped from Ecuador, amounted to almost one third of the 450 kilos seized by Customs last year.

Richardson, of Chishurst, Kent, and Donald Tredwen, aged 56, a car dealer, from Crystal Palace, south-east London, sold the drugs to wholesale distributors, taking about 50 per cent of the profit and returning the rest to

THE parents of two teenage British girls held in Thailand on heroin smuggling charges arrived in Bangkok last night as it was confirmed that the girls had been arrested after a tip-off from intelligence sources in London.

The source said that it seemed the girls had been used as couriers, known as "donkeys", by professional drug barons in Birmingham, ruthless men who cared little for courier's fate. They know from where and from whom to obtain large quantities of illicit drugs in the Golden Triangle region.

In Bangkok a narcotics officer confirmed that Thai police had information indicating that a drugs syndicate in the West Midlands was involved. John Francis, the British consul in Bangkok, said that he did not know if the girls had been duped into acting as couriers.

The girls were separated yesterday for the first time since their arrest on Wednesday night. Miss Smith was in reasonable spirits but Miss Cahill was very upset. She was transferred to the Ban Prance juvenile detention centre from the airport police station where both had been held.

A close watch was being kept on her. Her parents arrived last night accompanied by a reporter from a British national Sunday newspaper.

"I took the lid off some of the big stuff and there was soap in there. I didn't think anything of it."

At the airport to catch their flight, the girls were approached by a police officer before they reached customs who asked to check their bags.

"We went off with him, handed him our baggage and sat down and had a laugh about this and that," she said.

"We thought it was funny because all they would find was crisps and things. When we saw the heroin I couldn't believe my eyes. I couldn't believe it was heroin. I have never done drugs in my life."

"I said, 'is that cannabis?', and when I found out it was heroin I couldn't even speak. I was breathless. We realised we were in big trouble."

She said that she was so ashamed by what had happened she would rather have the death sentence than go back to England. "I would rather die. I couldn't go back to England with all this."

The conditions in her cell, which she shares with six other people, were disgusting. "We sleep on the floor, the toilet stinks, it is hot and it has got little creatures crawling around all over the place."

Visual arts prize is suspended

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Turner Prize, the contemporary visual arts equivalent of literature's Booker Prize, has been suspended after the collapse of Drexel Burnham Lambert, the bond dealers who sponsored the award.

The Tate Gallery, which has administered the award since its foundation in 1984, said yesterday that, since the company's collapse in February and withdrawal of involvement, the gallery had been reviewing the future of the £20,000 Turner Prize.

The cost of the sponsorship, which includes administration of the selection, has not been revealed but is thought to be about £80,000. The award would have been presented at the Tate in November after a seven-month process of sifting nominations, judging by an expert panel and shortlisting to find an ultimate winner.

A spokeswoman for the Tate said: "Negotiations are well under way with another potential sponsor with whom we should like to work."

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

Pressure grows for park bans on dogs

By DAVID YOUNG

MAN'S best friend is becoming less welcome in parks and public places as school holidays approach.

The royal parks in London have increased the areas banned to dogs from an experimental four last year to 16, and pressure is growing for other local authorities to introduce similar bans.

The president of the League for the Introduction of Canine Control, Tony Marlow, the Conservative MP for Northampton North, said: "Many people are simply sick and tired of having to clean up after other people who thoughtlessly allow their dogs to foul public places." Mr Marlow's son suffered from peripheral blindness because of toxocariasis, an infection caused by a canine worm.

Landlords of pubs with gardens for families are also banning dogs, but few local authorities have banned dogs from public parks and gardens.

They have set up designated areas of parks, using local by-laws and employing dog wardens to enforce the rules, after dog-owners' views have been consid-

ered. In Westminster dog owners can be forced to clear up after their pets and face fines of up to £100, but the council had to threaten to take the issue to the High Court before the Home Office would allow it to try the scheme for an experimental two years.

Dog faeces have been found to carry up to 30 diseases which affect humans. The best known is toxocariasis, which can cause blindness and other damage to eyesight when the eggs of the roundworm toxocara canis, found in the droppings of 60 per cent of dogs, are consumed by humans, particularly children who inadvertently eat infected soil after playing with toys in infected areas.

The eggs can survive in soil long after the dog faeces have decomposed. Other diseases include salmonella, scabies, leptospirosis which causes kidney damage, and campylobacter which causes intestinal disorders.

The toxocariasis parasites cannot reproduce in humans, but if eggs hatch the tiny larvae penetrate the stomach wall and can wander widely, causing inflammation and damage to nerves and body organs.

Unlike some other countries, Britain

has not made toxocariasis a notifiable disease and many doctors believe thousands of people, especially children, unknowingly suffer from it. The problem was illustrated when 19 out of 133 children picked at random by Bedford county council were found to have been infected by toxocara, five of them needing immediate hospital treatment.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine estimates that one child a week suffers sight loss from toxocariasis. Researchers at the school who examined soil samples from parks and play areas in London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Belfast, Liverpool, Hull, Exeter, Cardiff, Newcastle and Bristol found that half were dangerously contaminated. Soil samples at half the 10 sites contained live eggs of the parasite and some had particularly high numbers of eggs and larvae, notably all three from Hyde Park.

The environment department said the purpose of the experiment in London's Royal Parks was to reduce health risks caused by dog fouling; the scheme had received a very favourable response from park users and has been successful in keeping the areas free from dog faeces.



Karyn Smith smoking a cigarette in an exercise area of a Bangkok jail yesterday after her arrest at the airport

Solicitor admits stealing £800,000

A SENIOR solicitor systematically stole more than £800,000 from clients' trust funds before fleeing to Switzerland, a court was told yesterday.

When he returned secretly to Britain several years later, Andrew Bingham threatened police officers and sprayed CS gas in their faces after they spotted him in Bath, Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, said.

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German rewrite of EC draft may open junk mail floodgates

By RICHARD EVANS, MEDIA EDITOR

UNWANTED "junk mail" could increase dramatically after last-minute changes, masterminded by the Germans, to a draft European directive on data protection. The setback comes as Britain's £2.5 billion a year mail order business is preparing a campaign aimed at improving the image of direct mail and postal advertising.

The unexpected changes to the measure, published this week, will make it much more difficult for British direct mail firms to pinpoint consumers accurately, according to industry sources, with

the result that they will be forced to use "scattergun" mailing tactics.

Kevin Holland, the new chairman of the Advertising Association's data protection committee, said yesterday that the EC plan was potentially disastrous and had alarmed the government. "It would have a devastating effect on the targeting of mail and it would increase so-called junk mail," he said.

Neil McRae, managing director of *Reader's Digest*, whose direct mail business in Britain is worth more than £100 million a year, said: "It is quite incompatible to talk about better targeting and at the same time talk about

restricting data which enables better targeting to take place. We are after better targeting because every time we send an unwanted piece of direct mail we are wasting money and irritating the recipient."

The draft directive on data protection is critical for the direct mail industry because it controls the exchange and use of lists of names and addresses. Until less than a month ago, the trade and industry department and the British direct mail industry were confident that the draft directive would mirror the Council of Europe convention on personal data, which provided the ground

rules for the Data Protection Act. In the past fortnight, however, the measure has been radically rewritten by German officials to reflect stricter German laws.

Mr McRae said that if the draft directive became law, lists of names and addresses could not be exchanged among direct mail companies without the implicit approval of people on the lists. It would "greatly restrict exchange of lists and information, particularly purchase information, which enables people to target their mail properly".

The Brussels move is the latest difficulty for the direct mail industry which has received considerable criti-

cism, and a warning from Chris Patten, the environment secretary, who has hinted at introducing a waste tax for "junk mail".

The industry and the post office, which distributes tens of millions of direct mail items each year, are in the final stages of deciding on a campaign aimed at making consumers more sympathetic to their products.

Mr McRae said the industry needed to distance itself from the activities of some of the timeshare organisations which abused direct mail. Postal advertising should be seen as another print medium. The campaign will highlight the claim

that direct mail is not intrusive and allows people to decide at home if they want to buy something, as well as attempting to reassure people who are concerned at how their name and address were obtained.

"We wish to point out that the use of names and addresses is, per se, not harmful; that there is no harm involved in the process of people using names and addresses in order to target their direct mail, and the data which any of the direct mail organisations have is totally unauthorised and not usable in any way to pinpoint an individual to their detriment," Mr McRae added.

STEPHEN MARPLESS

Officers told of hostage threats

WARNINGS that inmates would take two hostages at a planned disturbance at the Pucklechurch remand centre were given in the week before rioting caused £1 million of damage, the Woolf enquiry was told yesterday.

Peter Hall, branch chairman of the Prison Officers' Association at the remand centre near Bristol, said that two officers had been named as potential hostages. The establishment was short of staff, he said on the tenth day of the enquiry at Taunton, Somerset, into disturbances in South-west prisons.

In view of the warnings he had voiced concern when the regional office asked for two staff to be sent to help at Usk, south Wales, on April 21 and 22. When trouble did break out at Pucklechurch on April 22, an officer was knocked unconscious after struggling with an inmate. His keys were seized and inmates were freed to rampage through the centre.

The enquiry, before Lord Justice Woolf and a team of specialist assessors, is expected to complete its hearings at Taunton on Monday.

Mr Hall said he believed that staffing levels at Pucklechurch were inadequate in any event. He said that officers from Pucklechurch had responded to a call for aid at Dartmoor, Bristol and Cardiff on April 7, 8 and 9. Afterwards, the Pucklechurch officers were given time off and this led to strains on staffing levels.

David Latham QC, the inquiry counsel, said prisoners had complained of a more strict regime at Pucklechurch in the days before trouble broke out. Mr Hall maintained that a shortage of staff had meant a reduction in inmate activities. He said that general warnings had been received of potential trouble. The warnings became more specific in the week before trouble started.

As he concluded his evidence, Mr Hall said that allegations made against prison officers by inmates who said that prisoners had been beaten, kicked and punched as they surrendered, had caused officers and their families hurt and embarrassment. "These allegations are nothing but unsubstantiated and unjustified: allegations of no substance whatsoever," he said.

Councils to lose £100m for poll tax rebates

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to claw back £100 million from local authorities next year in a move that will force the better-off to pay more to subsidise poll tax benefits for poorer people.

Community charge bills could rise by an extra £2.80 a head after the unannounced decision by the social security department to cut subsidies for poll tax rebates given to people on low incomes. The increases would be on top of the £22 a head predicted by Chris Patten, the environment secretary, on Thursday when he announced a £5.26 billion increase in central funding.

Local authorities said yesterday that the extra money provided by Mr Patten would be needed to meet his target of an average poll tax of £379 next year. The effects of the social security department's decision would have to be passed on to charge payers.

The department said its action was designed to increase efficiency in the administration of benefits by giving councils an incentive to avoid waste. From April 1 next year the department will meet only 95 per cent of the cost of rebates. At present councils can reclaim 97 per cent of the cost. The 2 per cent change will mean that councils throughout Britain will have to raise £100 million from charge payers, which could add £5 a head to the poll tax in some areas. In England the change will cost £85 million, which councils say is the equivalent of £2.80 on poll tax bills.

Deprived inner city areas will suffer the worst financial consequences because they make the most rebates. Tameside, Greater Manchester, is typical of many inner city boroughs in having a third of its residents eligible for rebates.

The department's decision was being seen last night as part of measures to keep spending in check in the wake of the government's concession to local authorities over the revenue support grant. News of the change was broken to the local authorities by social security department

officials at a private meeting on Thursday only a few hours before Mr Patten announced the increase in local government income.

The Labour controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities yesterday said: "Areas with large numbers of people on benefit will be doubly disadvantaged by this change."

However, the department said: "We believe that the effects will be marginal in the extreme with less than £1 being added to poll tax bills as a result. It is vital that we give local authorities a financial incentive to ensure the efficient management of the benefit system which involves literally billions of pounds."

In another development, it emerged that Mr Patten may face a fresh legal challenge to his right to cap councils. The Labour-run Local Government Information Unit, which co-ordinated the unsuccessful appeal to the House of Lords by 16 capped councils, said at least two councils were considering fresh action.

If it goes ahead the new challenge will concentrate on the spending levels set for the capped councils. The last round of litigation was about the criteria used to select councils for capping.

The Labour controlled councils of Lambeth and Greenwich, both in London, are considering taking action but are awaiting legal advice.

The prospect that councils could find themselves on the receiving end of legal action increased yesterday when Haringey council in north London became the latest capped council to set a poll tax higher than that specified by the government. Mr Patten had said he expected the council to reduce its poll tax of £572.89, the highest in England, by £71. In the event the council's policy committee agreed to a cut of only £36.

Tony Harris, the Labour leader of the council, said: "Let the government sue us. They can limit our budget, but we think they cannot dictate what poll tax we charge. We have to balance the books."

The Balearic islands are also being affected, with up to 15 per cent of hotels in Ibiza staying closed so far this season, according to the local authorities. The normally popular resort of San Antonio

has a record low hotel occupancy rate of 55 per cent. In the islands as a whole, visitor numbers are up to 25 per cent fewer British visitors than last year.

Spanish politicians are calling for emergency measures to restore the holiday industry to its former profitable glory. Tourism is Spain's single biggest money earner and is vital for employment in a country where one in six people is out of work.

The high level of the peseta against other currencies, rising prices and the indifferent quality of accommodation have been blamed. The fall in tourism in Salou and Cambria, once among favourite destinations for British package holidaymakers, has dropped last year's out-of-season fever in Salou.

Violent storms in the town then brought sewage flooding onto the streets from the sea, and there was a serious accident last September at a nearby nuclear power station.

• Kathleen de Souza, whose husband died from heartbreak in Spain, heard yesterday that she will not receive £15,000 holiday insurance money awarded by a county court judge. Three Appeal Court judges ruled that it was not possible to say that the man's death was the result of an accidental injury, covered by the policy, and allowed an appeal by Home and Overseas Insurance against a Slough County Court ruling that Mrs de Souza, of Langley, Berkshire, was entitled to the money. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

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Courts clash on Sunday shopping

By DAVID YOUNG

A CROWN court judge has called on the government to give a clear lead on the Sunday trading laws after dismissing a prosecution against B&Q for opening its store in Shrewsbury on a Sunday (David Young writes).

Less than 48 hours earlier, a judge in the High Court had ordered that the company had been guilty of a breach of the law for opening its stores in Norwich and Stoke on a Sunday.

Judge Northcote ruled at Shrewsbury yesterday that the Shops Act 1950 cannot be enforced because it contravened European legislation. On Wednesday, Mr Justice Hoffman ruled in the High Court that B&Q was breaking the law.

Judge Northcote said yesterday that it was not the function of the courts to make new laws, but unless and until the government gave clear instructions, costly and time-consuming cases would continue.

The Shopping Hours Reform Council said yesterday that the application of the Sunday trading law had become a legal lottery after the decision in Shrewsbury to uphold the appeal of B&Q against convictions for Sunday trading offences. Roger Boaden, the council's director, said: "Just two days ago Judge Hoffman, sitting in a civil case, granted an injunction against B&Q describing Sunday opening as criminal.

"Today a senior judge in a criminal case, after reading the Hoffman judgment, finds that B&Q are not committing a criminal offence by opening their shops on Sunday. As a result of conflicting decisions in courts at all levels, some stores will be closed and

others open legally. This is a form of madness that the consumer will find hard to comprehend.

The whole application of the law has now become a total lottery in the courts. There must be immediate government action to liberalise the law. Nothing else will do.

"Today's decision is of social importance, as this was one of the original references to the European Court of Justice. Unlike the magistrates in the Torfaen case, who looked at the European judgement and rejected it, this senior crown court judge, looking at exactly the same evidence, has come to a decision which is in direct conflict."

A spokesman for B&Q said: "This week has shown what a complete state of chaos the Sunday trading law is in. On Wednesday a High Court judge forced us to close two stores for committing a so-called criminal act in Stoke and Norwich, and 48 hours later in Shrewsbury we learn that the criminal act does not exist. How are retailers and customers to know what the law is when the courts themselves aren't sure?"

"The government can no longer expect retailers and the legal system to sort out this mess. There can be no other act which is legal in some parts of the country and illegal in others. The government should now act in accordance with its responsibilities," the spokesman said.

B&Q will continue to open its stores this Sunday, apart from the two in Stoke and Norwich which were the subject of the High Court ruling on Wednesday.

Huntsman cleared of assault

Geoffrey Thomas, former joint master of the Cury Hunt, was yesterday cleared by magistrates at Truro, Cornwall, of head-butting a huntswoman who blocked the hunt's access to a gully by his cottage.

John Weavers, who had parked cars across the entrance beside his home at Coverack Bridges, near Helston, said that Thomas had head-butted him and then threw his portable telephone onto the ground.

Thomas, a civil engineer, of West Park, Redruth, denied assaulting Mr Weavers but admitted criminally damaging the telephone. He was fined £25 with £22.50 costs.

Ice-cream war

Two ice-cream vendors feuding over a pitch in Parliament Square, central London, were told yesterday by Mr Justice Macpherson that it was degrading to use the High Court to fight their battle. The case was adjourned.

Appeal fails

Christine Sellers, of Christchurch, Dorset, yesterday failed in the Appeal Court to win £25,000 damages against a doctor she alleged had deceived her into having an abortion because he told her the baby would be deformed.

Writ issued

The NutraSweet Company, of West Park, Redruth, denied assaulting Mr Weavers but admitted criminally damaging the telephone. He was fined £25 with £22.50 costs.

Baroness's fear of live burial is laid to rest after 120 years

By JOHN YOUNG

THE body of an elderly baroness who was so terrified of being buried alive that she demanded to be placed in an open crypt will finally be interred this morning, 120 years after her death.

Sophia Elizabeth Wykeham Mortimer of Swynford, Oxfordshire, died in 1870 and was buried in an open crypt at Thame Park in Oxfordshire.

She never married and, when the estate was sold, no members of her immediate family were left to carry out her wish to be buried as soon as it was clear that she had indeed passed into the Great Beyond.

The corpse thus remained undisturbed in its coffin in the crypt and it was

not until restoration work began on the house and grounds a few months ago that moves were begun to give Lady Wenham a proper Christian burial.

That was not easy. Aida Moir, of the Courtauld Institute in London, eight years ago, was remanded in custody by Horseridge Road magistrates' court yesterday. The work was recovered in May.

Restoration work for the present Japanese owner of the estate includes extensive repairs to the roof and masonry together with internal refurbishment.

In a private ceremony the coffin will be taken from the crypt and buried in the family graveyard beside the Victorian chapel in the grounds. The service will be conducted by the Right Rev Richard Watson, former Bishop of

Thame and chairman of the Thame Historical Society.

Girls out

Three girls have left Torquay Girls' Grammar School, Devon, and nine have been suspended after the discovery of an alleged theft ring at the school.

On target

Len Perrett, aged 53, from Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, scored two holes in one during the same round at Shireland golf club, near Ayleton, Derbyshire. He plays off 13.

The bad news.

Champagne prices have doubled over the past five years, rising 18 per cent last year alone. This year could see a further substantial rise, according to

The good news.

Majestic are offering 15% off their champagne prices* and giving you the opportunity to taste free before you buy – but only until August 31st.

Because we sell by the case, our prices have always been hard to beat. And from now until August 31st, they'll be even better value for money – by a full 15%.

We're even holding free tasting weekends, each featuring a choice of excellent grandes marques from our superb range of champagnes. There's sample free parking, a free local delivery service and we're open 10am till late, seven days a week.

FREE TASTING THIS WEEKEND 21st & 22nd JULY

FREE TASTING NEXT WEEKEND 26th & 29th JULY

ALSO ON OFFER

Laurent Perrier	£147.95	£142.70	Joseph Perrier	£169.95	£142.70	Lanson 1983 Vintage	£227.90	£193.29
Lanson Black Label	£149.95	£125.90	Charles Heidsieck	£152.95	£152.90	Lanson Rose	£221.95	£188.60
Veuve Clicquot	£209.95	£178.40	Pol Roger	£203.95	£173.30	Ayala	£167.95	£142.70
Bollinger Special Cuvée	£227.95	£193.70	Louis Roederer Brut Premier	£227.95	£193.70	Pommery	£189.95	£168.00
		</						

حکایت از الحمد

Sugar. The more you know about it, the sweeter it tastes.

The Lucifer Humming Bird is one of Nature's athletic wonders. If you're lucky enough to glimpse one in its native South America it will be just a flash of iridescent plumage, nothing more.

On wings beating up to eighty times a second, it can fly upside down and even backwards; callisthenics beside which Olympic champions look puny.

Wherever does this bird get such fantastic energy?

From eating the nearest thing to the sun's rays themselves. Sugar.

Edible sunshine.

Sugars are the simplest of all foods. Pure and easily digestible, they are a fundamental natural energy source. So basic, in fact, that they aren't just confined to sweet foods. Have you ever wondered why crunching a raw carrot is so delicious? Or why a succulent grass stem is so pleasant to nibble on a summer's walk?

It's because all plants contain sugars. They make them from sunshine, air and water.

Why don't all plants taste sweet? Simply because these sugars are also built into more complex foods.

Starches like potatoes, rice and corn.

And fibre: the stalks, leaves, husks and other parts of the plant's structure.

Scientists call all these sugar-foods carbohydrates, because of the carbon, hydrogen and oxygen they contain.

When animals eat carbohydrates, they rapidly break them down to simple sugars again. (Try thoroughly chewing a piece of ordinary bread. After a while, you'll find it begins to taste sweet.)

Simply purified.

Obviously some foods contain more simple sugars than others. Nectar, honey, milk and many fruits and berries are all rich in sugars. A glass of fresh orange juice contains about as much sugar as a glass of cola (that's another story).

But two plants contain more sugars than all of these.

Sugar cane, a juicy, thick-stemmed tropical grass. And sugar beet, a white root vegetable which grows in cool, temperate climates like our own.

These are the plants from which household sugar is traditionally extracted. It's a simple process.

The juice of the pulped plants is mixed with water, filtered, cleaned and boiled down to a thick syrup, from which pure white sugar can be crystallised.

Left behind is a dark, treacly substance called molasses, which gives brown sugars their characteristic colour and flavour.

There's hardly any nutritional difference between brown and white sugars. And neither contain any colouring, flavouring or preservatives.

When the merchant caravans from the Orient

brought these exotic crystals to Europe in the 11th Century they became a rare delicacy.

A few ounces cost a year's pay, so they had to be stored in lockable caddies.

They were used to flavour meat and fish and to mask the dreadful tastes commonplace before refrigeration.

Irreplaceable in cooking.

Only when Columbus took sugar cane to the fertile soils of the New World did prices fall and sugar become widely available.

Since then its amazing properties have gradually come to light.

Sugar is a natural preservative. It enhances flavour and provides bulk and texture.

Sugar feeds the yeast which makes bread rise and ferments to make alcoholic drinks.

It can set

like plaster and also change into candy, creme, toffee, caramel, syrup, fondant or floss.

It can brown, glaze and fix flavour. It prevents foods from going stale (just leave a lump in the biscuit tin).

But that's not all.

An explosive, an anti-freeze, a cure for curries.

Sugar can be turned into an explosive. Dissolved in water, an ounce or two will lower the freezing point by several degrees.

A teaspoonful after a vindaloo will extinguish the furnace in your mouth.

You know the bottles and plate glass windows that stuntmen use for their tricks?

Guess what they're made of.

Sugar hardens asphalt. And slows the setting of ready-mixed concrete. In vase-water, a spoonful gives cut flowers a longer lease of life.

A pinch of sugar on the tongue is a traditional remedy for hiccups.

Lifeboats and aircraft carry sugar in their survival kits. Astronauts, athletes and mountaineers use sugar tablets as emergency energy supplies.

'Eat thou honey, because it is good' says the Book of Proverbs. 'Honesty coupled to beauty is to have honey a sauce to sugar' wrote Shakespeare in *As You Like It*.

Sugar has been praised by Chaucer and immortalised in the nursery rhyme. (What are little girls made of?)

For over 2,000 years sugar and sweetness have been bywords for goodness and love. Until recently.

Because today it's a very different story. Sugar now stands accused of causing fillings, slab and worse. Is it to blame?

Sugar itself doesn't rot your teeth.

Sugar is undoubtedly a factor in tooth decay. But it isn't sugar which damages your teeth. It's acid, released by bacteria in the mouth.

These bacteria live on sugars and starches left on the teeth after eating. So it follows, keep your teeth clean and the bacteria will starve.

Brush your teeth with a recognised fluoride toothpaste at least twice a day. Avoid eating too frequently between meals. And visit your dentist regularly.

Then sugar shouldn't harm your teeth. What about your waistline?

Only 16 Calories per teaspoon.

So many people now believe sugar is fattening, it's become widely accepted as the truth. 'Sugar tastes so good' runs a perverse logic 'that it must be bad for you.'

Yet how many Calories are there in a four gram sugar lump?

16. The same as protein and half as many as in fat. (You probably add more Calories to your coffee or tea with milk than with sugar.)

Every day an average person needs 1500 Calories. Just to breathe, keep warm and make your heart beat. Half these Calories, nutritionists say, should come from carbohydrates – sugars and starches.

So keep things in proportion.

Even a weight-watcher can enjoy sugar in moderation.

As to other charges, scientific studies the world over confirm that sugar is not a direct cause of disease.

Indeed, judiciously sprinkled, sugar can lead you into much healthier eating habits.

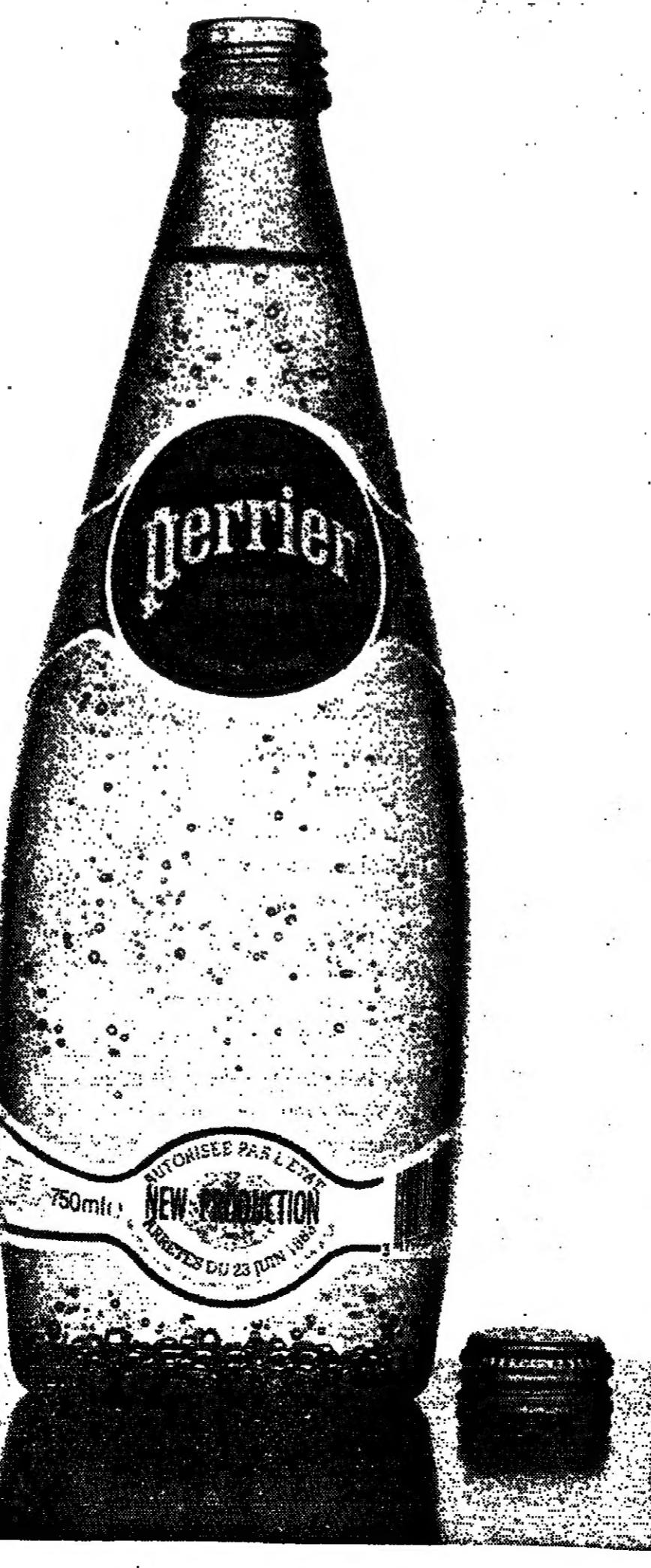
Think how it transforms a sharp grapefruit or even breakfast bran.

Don't miss out on a treat from Nature on account of empty rumour.

As one person said, avoiding sugar won't make you live any longer.

It'll just seem that way.

The Fawner.



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Schools can continue to teach three sciences

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOLS will be able to continue to teach the three separate sciences, John MacGregor, the education secretary, said yesterday, after rejecting a recommendation from his school examination advisers that science should be taught as one subject within the national curriculum.

Many leading scientists and the headmasters of independent schools had argued that the three sciences were necessary for pupils wanting to go on to A levels and university.

The School Examinations and Assessment Council (Seac) had recommended in March that GCSE science should be taken as a comprehensive "balanced" science course carrying two passes or a simpler single award examination.

Under the council's proposals single sciences could only be taken by more able pupils who had already gained the GCSE double award. In rejecting the advice yesterday Mr MacGregor said he was asking the council to develop new syllabuses in the three subjects.

He said that if the work could not be completed in time for the syllabuses to be introduced in 1992 he would waive national curriculum science requirements for pupils making a firm commitment then to take all three sciences in 1994.

Mr MacGregor said: "I believe it is right to enable schools that wish to do so to offer pupils with a particular interest in science the option of taking GCSE in physics, chemistry and biology." He said he had made the decision because he wanted schools to have maximum flexibility in providing GCSE courses.

Mr MacGregor said that many independent schools wanted to adopt the national curriculum although not legally required to do so. An insistence on "balanced" science might have prevented them from doing so.

Mr Philip Halsey, chairman and chief executive of Seac, said: "The council has consistently

First year, page 12

Parliament

Curb on tobacco sponsors sought

A BAN on sports sponsorship by cigarette companies was called for in the Commons yesterday by MPs from both sides. The health department was accused of having "cosy chats" with the tobacco industry to reach a compromise on advertising restrictions instead of banning advertising.

For the Opposition, Harriet Harman said that Labour was committed to a total ban on all cigarette advertising and sponsorship.

She also called for a 20 per cent cut in alcohol consumption by the year 2000. "Even quite small levels of alcohol consumption can be damaging to people's health," she said.

Opening a debate on promoting good health, Roger Sims (Christiansburg, C) said: "I would like to see a complete ban on the advertising and promotion of tobacco, especially that associated with sport, which seems to me particularly cynical."

Smoking was the largest cause of illness and premature death. Each year 110,000 died before their time through smoking-related disease and illness. Although there had been a decline in the number of smokers, a third of the population still smoked and it was worrying how many young people, particularly girls, took up the habit.

While the government spent just £5 million a year trying to dissuade people from smoking, the tobacco companies spent £100 million a year trying to encourage them.

Sir George Young (Ealing,

Labour) joined in the criticism. "I find it sad that sport is now addicted to tobacco in the same way as many smokers are," he said. He questioned whether the Commons should continue to sell cigarettes carrying its crest.

Alexander Carlisle (Montgomery, Lib Dem) said that MPs were not particularly well-qualified to teach the nation what it should be doing about its state of health. There could be few jobs which were as unhealthy as being an MP.

Too much hot air and too many free meals are hardly a recipe for a healthy life," he said.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said that diseases where personal responsibility could play a part, like heart disease and strokes, were the new challenge.

Smoking killed more than 100,000 people every year, costing the National Health Service £500 million as well as untold personal misery. If cigarettes were introduced now there was little doubt they would be banned. Although the habit was now too deeply established for that, new products could be, and had been, prohibited.

The effects of passive smoking were now generally accepted and she would be suggesting to the health education authority that it draws up guidance on passive smoking for general distribution.

Smoking should be reduced with proper control over advertising. Needless deaths should be avoided at all costs.

'Shifty' procedure angers Opposition

LABOUR MPs complained for the second time this month that the Government was springing statements on the House of Commons without agreement through the "usual channels", the informal contacts between party managers.

Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said that it was time for the Speaker to use his authority. His previous words had not been enough for the government. It had treated them with contempt. "You have to make it clear to the government that this business has to stop," he said.

He and others argued that the government was seeking to exploit television coverage.

The protests arose when it was learnt that a minister intended to make a statement about British oil, the former state-owned oil company.

On July 3, the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, had suspended

Man jailed for rape is cleared and freed

A MAN who was given an eight-year jail sentence two years ago for raping a woman after she left a social club, was cleared and freed at the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Lord Justice Taylor, sitting with Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Pill, said that Edward Robert Richardson, aged 43, "must not remain a moment longer in jail".

The court had been told that the alleged victim, aged 40, a mother of four children, had made another rape complaint against two men earlier this year and then dropped it. The accounts given by the alleged rapists of what happened in that case tallied exactly with the denials made in 1988 by Mr Richardson.

Lord Justice Taylor told Mr Richardson: "You are free to go." He added: "It is a matter of the greatest regret that this man has had to spend time in custody but no doubt other authorities will look at this aspect of the matter."

Mr Richardson, of Pontsticill, Merthyr Tydfil, who was jailed by Judge Rutter at Cardiff Crown Court on August 24, 1988, had his rape conviction quashed and sentence set aside. Lord Justice Taylor said the jury in the case had been impeccably directed and it was conceded that the trial had been fair.



How it's done: Ed Iglesias demonstrating the art of glass blowing at the Art in Action festival in the grounds of Waterperry House, Wheatley, Oxford

Parasite threat to tap water

By DANIEL TREISMAN

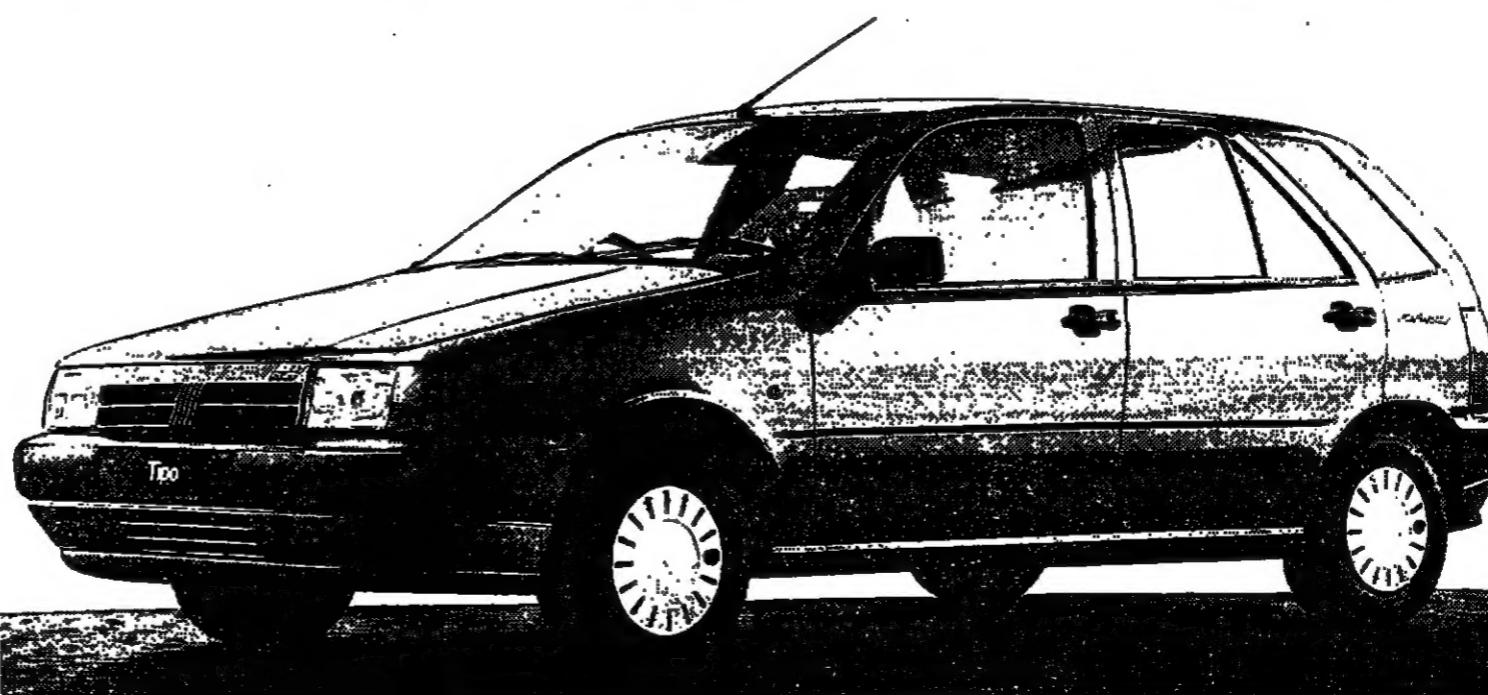
A MICROSCOPIC parasite that can slip undetected into rivers and reservoirs could make tap water unsafe to drink, the chairman of a government-appointed expert group said yesterday.

Unlike most water parasites, cryptosporidium, which causes bouts of diarrhoea lasting up to three weeks, is not killed by chlorine or other disinfectants.

The group was set last year after an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis in parts of Swindon and Oxfordshire supplied with water from Thames Water's Farndon treatment centre. More than 100 children became ill. "The mains water in this country is almost always safe to drink," Sir John Badenoch, chairman of the group, said yesterday at the launch of the group's report. "It isn't always safe to drink."

Cases of the diarrhoeal illness are rare, amounting to 9,000 last year, or two per cent of all cases of diarrhoea investigated. However, the parasite, which is found in livestock wastes, can affect hundreds of people if it gets into the water supply. Sir John said: "I can't say because people are at risk because in general the whole country is very slightly at risk from a very small number of cases." Cryptosporidium, which is generally killed by boiling water, can have pos-

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APR %	0%	0%	15.14%	
Monthly Instalments	(24)	216.40	(36)	133.17
Total Credit Price	7,990.00	7,990.00	10,010.00	
SAVING versus Fiat Finance	1,175.76	1,656.72	992.44	
Typical Rate (22.5% APR)†				



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EUROPE'S DRIVING FORCE

F I A T

Bonn to cut defence bill as peace pays big dividend

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE West German government is planning a first peace dividend next year with further cuts of 4 per cent in its planned defence budget of DM52.6 billion (£17.8 billion). This is the second proposed cut in the original draft for defence spending and would bring the total to just under DM50 billion compared with DM54.2 billion being spent this year.

The cut was among the last decisions taken by Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, before leaving yesterday for his annual month-long holiday at St Gilgen by the Wolfgangsee in Austria. He agreed on the reduction together with leaders of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU).

Among those absent was Gerhard Stoltenberg, the defence minister, who had originally been promised a DM55.3 billion budget for

next year. He was consulted by telephone during the meeting and, although not happy about the cut, was said to have agreed with the principle.

Sources said he felt that he had been abandoned by party friends and the chancellor because he was striving to maintain a strong defence.

Defence spending was bound to be cut following Herr Kohl's promise to President Gorbachev this week to restrict the size of the army of a united Germany to 370,000 men, which is 100,000 fewer than the size of the present Bundeswehr. Bernd Wilz, the CDU defence spokesman, said the reduction was a clear signal of future spending.

The CDU-CSU proposal will be debated after the summer recess in the Bundestag, where it should have no difficulty in being passed, although the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) are likely to argue that even more money could be saved.

Herr Stoltenberg has been also asked to draw up a further report on low-flying exercises, which more than any other individual aspect contributes to Nato's unpopularity in West Germany. Herr Kohl agreed with his defence experts that it was no longer necessary to train as low as 250ft; such training, which is already restricted to seven areas and at certain times, is the lowest level permitted over West Germany. He wants a 1,000ft level, while Herr Stoltenberg considers 850ft as a compromise.

Last September the defence minister persuaded the allied air forces to accept further cuts and restrictions in low-level training, including slower speeds and summer breaks. Citizens' action groups, however, were not satisfied and kept up the pressure. Since then Herr Stoltenberg has been trying to persuade Nato air forces to end such training.

Nato's departure from a former defence policy strategy does mean that low-level missions are no longer relevant and defence ministry officials believe that it will not be long before it is phased out altogether.

• STRASBURG: East Germany's 62,000 professional soldiers swore a new oath yesterday before a pacifist defence minister to defend the state as long as it exists — which may be just a matter of months.

The new oath, sworn at army bases across the country, replaces a redundant oath of allegiance to the old communist leadership.

"Achtung! The minister for disarmament and defence. Eyes right," screamed Lieutenant-General Manfred Graetz as the pacifist pastor-minister, Rainer Eppelmann, strode to the podium. More than 1,000 officers and non-commissioned officers who work at the ministry, a second world war German military base an hour's drive east of Berlin, drew up in ranks to swear the new and shorter oath of allegiance.

"I swear," they intoned after Admiral Theodor Hoffmann, the armed forces chief, "always to fulfil with discipline and honour my military duties according to the laws of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). I swear to devote all my energy to maintaining the peace and protecting the GDR." (Reuter)

New rebel drive on Monrovia

Harbel — Liberian rebels launched a new offensive against a strategic military camp south-east of Monrovia yesterday after the chief rebel negotiator said that peace talks were over.

Several hundred National Patriotic Front rebels were thrown into the attack on the Schieffelin military garrison, 18 miles from the Liberian capital. The rebels originally tried to seize the camp, one of the final obstacles on the road to Monrovia, last Saturday.

The heavily fortified camp was being fiercely defended by government troops. Both sides were using machine-guns and recoilless cannons in heavy fighting. About 10 rebel troops were wounded. (APF)

French security overhaul begins

Paris — France has begun a complete overhaul of security at its embassies after the discovery of an arms-smuggling ring at its mission in Beirut. Members of the elite force of policemen protecting the embassy and French diplomats in Lebanon are suspected of buying cut-price weapons from militia contacts and supplying them to France's criminal underworld.

Pierre Joxe, the interior minister, said in a radio interview he would be "pitiless" with men found guilty. He described the scandal as a heavy blow to the image of the French police. (Reuter)

Albanians storm rulers' houses

Rome — Crowds of Albanians have in the past few days tried to storm the houses of the country's ruling central committee members after the closure of Western embassies which had given political asylum to thousands of Albanians in Tirana last week. Sources here said yesterday (A Correspondent writes).

Albanians speaking from Tirana said that between three and five hundred people descended on the villas of several leading members of the central committee when they were unable to reach the embassy quarter.



Soviet troops standing guard outside Communist Party headquarters in Osh, Kirghizia, where more than 12 people were killed this week in ethnic violence.

Elsewhere in the Soviet Union, four people were killed and 10 injured in an explosion on a passenger train near the Black Sea, a Soviet interior ministry spokesman said yesterday. It was not known if a bomb caused the blast.

In another incident, Armenian nationalists took hostage a Soviet guard detachment after a gun battle on the Turkish border yesterday, prompting the new Armenian parliament to halt its opening session.

Budapest digging in on arms inspection rights

By ANDREW MCLEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN VIENNA

THE disintegration of the Warsaw Pact has taken a new turn in the conventional forces in Europe talks in Vienna, where the Hungarian delegation is insisting on the right to inspect the forces of other East European countries.

The conventional forces in Europe treaty, expected to be signed by November, is an agreement between the 16 Nato countries and the seven Warsaw Pact nations to reduce forces in Central Europe and to give each side the right to check that the other meets its obligations.

As the Warsaw Pact is no longer an effective military alliance, the negotiators now refer to the two sides as "groups of nations". Despite this, it is largely written in adversarial terms, as if the Cold War era had not yet

ended. It will be the last treaty to be written in such a way.

However, Hungary, which is seeking to leave the Warsaw Pact, has forced the negotiators to widen their outlook. It wants the inspection rights to apply between members of the same group. A senior Hungarian source said yesterday that Budapest would refuse to sign the treaty without such a clause.

Two Western sources confirmed that Hungary had been equally firm in meetings of the 23 nations. Hungary could in theory block the treaty if it did not get its way, but a senior Western source said it looked likely that a way of accommodating Budapest would be found.

The objections do not come solely from other East European nations. Greece and Turkey are just as unsatisfactory about allowing each other to inspect their bases.

The proposal seemed to have no chance of success when Budapest first raised it earlier this year. Most Warsaw Pact members were offended by it, according to the Hungarian source, and at first Nato was equally doubtful. The Hungarian delegation has not yet made it a formal proposal but is expected to do so soon.

The delay was a tactical move. Budapest did not put Soviet negotiators in a position where they would have to reject it, reasoning that, given time, they would see that it was in their interests. After Budapest has left the pact, the Soviet Union will want to monitor Hungarian forces. Western sources say that Budapest's real aim is not to check that the Soviet Union complies with the treaty, but to monitor military movements in Romania. The two countries have a long history of tense relations.

The Hungarian plan is one of a number of issues making verification the toughest aspect of the talks. There are continuing differences over the frequency and intrusiveness of inspections and whether the challenged country or the challenger should pay for inspections.

One fear raised by the Soviet delegation was that the Hungarians might use up a lot of the Eastern group's quota for annual inspections, leaving less time for checking Western bases. The Hungarians said they would be willing to limit it to a fixed number of days.

The two sides have settled their differences over the destruction of military helicopters in excess of the quota but there are still differences over the destruction of 40,000 Soviet tanks.

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK by Michael Binyon

Nit-picking Eurocrats determined to derail the Gravy Train

The TV series *The Gravy Train* has reached the end of its run on Channel 4, but video copies are still making the rounds here and Eurocrats, embarrassed to see themselves so mercilessly skewered on the programme, are riposting with all the nit-picking they usually reserve for arcane regulations on rollover protection on agricultural and forestry vehicles. For instance, there are 23, not 22, directorates at the Berlaymont, the European Commission headquarters. There is no Euro-pool of big black shiny cars. Plums and others' surpluses do not arrive by the tonne-load at Midi station, but are consigned to rot in intervention warehouses in produced countries. And which EC secretary can speak only Portuguese? Unless you can file in English, flirt in French and deal with parking fines in Flemish you will not get a look in at the Berlaymont.

But the series got one thing right. Being new in Brussels can be confusing. Shortly after I arrived, the *Financial Times* man invited us for dinner.

"Do come. Leon Brittan's chef



Bewildered Brussels: Christoph Waltz, left, and Alexei Sayle in a scene from Channel 4's successful series *The Gravy Train*

will be there." Ah, this is the gravy train, I told my wife. Clearly journalists know all the best people.

But the commissioner for competition policy's chef, a pleasant besuited Scot, did not seem quite the culinary maestro I expected. It took a full ten minutes of confusing conversation before I understood that a chef de cabinet prepares directives, and not soups.

Nine official languages exist in the Community, although Irish Gaelic is virtually unused. There is, however, another language in common use that takes years to master: Euro-jargon. This is a special variant of franglais, where words such as "derogation" (exception in plain English) are pointers to whole lifestyles in Euro-diplomacy; the effort by "perm rope" (member states)

ambassadors) to force every other country except their own to obey some new directive.

The bagging is usually sorted out in "cooper" (comité permanent des représentants). There is more haggling in "poco", the jealously separate political co-operation procedure, never to be mixed up with Berlaymont business.

But what about the co-operation procedure, a right for which MEPs will battle until the bars close? That needs a day's reading of the Sea (Single European Act) to understand and basically means Strasbourg and the Commission ganging up on the Council of Ministers.

Then there are the French acronyms with English meanings, and vice-versa.

The Berd is not a species of Euro-fowl but the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Ecu, we all know, is not just an ancient French coin but a gleam in the eye of Jacques Delors, whereas the hard Ecu seems to be something John Major wants us to break our teeth on.

All the directorates-general are referred to by numbers by those in the know. It's crassly naive to talk about the agriculture directorate; DG VI is the terminology for lobbyists boasting about their inside track.

"That must be the work of DG II, DG V would never have phrased it like that," I was told recently. Translation: the commissioner for economic and financial affairs presents arguments on unit labour costs quite differently from Vassos Papandreou, commissioner for social affairs and champion of the notorious social charter.

Of course there's a pecking order and the bottom, as *The Gravy Train* rightly insisted, is DG X — culture.

But even Jean Dondelinger, the hapless commissioner from Luxembourg, where Eurocracy is a way of life, would balk at it being called the "dullest, darkest, dumbest and dafest".

Some say agriculture, with a budget big enough to buy Romania, is top of that list, but the tedium factor must get you down. It was, for instance, hard to share the joy of the Irish in their final

Spy chief 'looking for Soviet haven for Stasi'

From ANNE MCLEOVY IN EAST BERLIN

MARKUS Wolf is not at home, his Russian wife says apologetically. The most successful spy chief in Europe, who headed East Germany's espionage operations for 30 years, has gone to Moscow. "We will judge the future of German political culture by how generously the case of Markus Wolf is handled."

The West German security service does not believe that Herr Wolf's frequent trips to the Soviet Union — at least three in the past two months — are caused by a drive for literary perfection. "In German we say that lies have short legs," one Western source said. "On that criterion Wolf must be a dwarf by now." Herr Wolf's journeys are thought to revolve around the transfer of Nazi agents in the West to the KGB.

Earlier there had been speculation that the spy chief, who faces the prospect of a seven-year jail term for treason when the two Germanies unite, intended to flee to the Soviet Union. It has now been stated he is prepared to face up to West German justice, but that he expects freedom from prosecution in return for information.

Herr Wolf's personal assistant, who insisted on anonymity before agreeing to a meeting, said that former agents — he is one himself — are "extremely nervous" about their fate after unity.

"Those still in the West are sitting on a powder keg. If their masters start to talk for money or promises of leniency they are finished. After December, the East will no longer be a hiding place," the assistant said.

He admitted that information is still flowing among agents, even though the old command structure has broken down. "The time-honoured methods still apply. They go for a walk along the same route every day and look at a certain window. If there is a light there, they are to stay where they are. If the window is dark, they are to return to East Berlin. The only thing protecting them is the friendship and loyalty within the service."

Herr Wolf has already said that he will not denounce spies in return for freedom from prosecution. To hundreds of agents he is still "Der Chef" — the boss, the name he insisted upon. "I cannot get out of the habit of calling him that," his assistant said.

The West German counter-espionage service, Bundesnachrichtendienst, is divided on the fate of their former enemy. "If he is not prosecuted, it makes a mockery of West German justice," said one source. Others are worried

that Herr Wolf will reveal embarrassing details of espionage triumphs if he is brought to court, and weaken the service.

Herr Wolf said recently that the placing of Günter Guillaume in the office of Willy Brandt, the former chancellor, was not his greatest coup.

"The others were better because they were never caught."

Since his retirement from the espionage department euphemistically called the Aufklärung (the enlightenment) in 1987, he has emerged from the shadows to become a national celebrity because of his support for Moscow-type reforms. Hans Modrow, the former prime minister and a longstanding friend, has described him as "the cleverest brain this country try had".

Herr Wolf recognised earlier than anyone else that the days of hardline socialism were numbered. An attempt to rescue East Germany by manoeuvring Herr Modrow into a position of power failed when the fall of Erich Honecker's regime unleashed latent demands for unification. "If you ask anyone in the service what 'development' they dreamed most, it is this," his assistant said.

Moscow has made it clear it

Delors guarded on EC aid to Moscow

From MARY DEXTERY IN MOSCOW

JACQUES Delors, the president of the European Commission, ended a three-day visit to Moscow yesterday with praise for President Gorbachev's grasp of market economics but a guarded response to Soviet requests for economic co-operation.

Mr Delors, who was paying his first official visit to the Soviet Union, acknowledged that the Soviet economy needed Western help and said the Commission would take a decision in October when more was known about the direction of Soviet economic reform plans. He described his visit as largely exploratory, but said that Moscow needed "at least technical assistance".

He said a group of European Community "experts" would visit Moscow next month to compile a report on economic reforms and possible areas for Western aid.

Mr Delors was given top-level treatment in Moscow, where he was received by

US overt of N conv

From MARY DEXTERY IN MOSCOW

Nikolai Ryzhov, the prime minister, Leonid Abalkin, head of the government's economic reform programme, Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister, and President Gorbachev himself.

On Thursday, according to Tass, Mr Delors expressed concern about plans by individual Soviet republics to introduce their own currency. This was interpreted in Moscow as offering Mr Gorbachev crucial political support against the separate ambitions of the Baltic republics Estonia and Lithuania, who already announced plans to mint their own currency.

Yesterday, however, Mr Delors played down the importance of what he had said, saying he had merely emphasised to the Soviet leader that the EC considered it advantageous to move in the opposite direction, from 12 separate economies towards one integrated economy with a common currency.

The government is relying on people's support again who are barely

From VASSOS PAPANDREOU IN ATHENS

THE first visit of Aras, Israel's new minister to the United States, was marked yesterday by Washington's surprise announcement of talks on defence programmes.

The announcement shortly after Mr Aras' arrival in Washington, where he is meeting Richard Cheney, defence secretary, was

Israel's analysis speculates that the talks on joint defence programmes, scheduled to begin next week, were finalised because of the US's interest in Israel's defence needs.

They also said it is an attempt to pressure Israel to stop stalling on the East peace process.

radio described the peace process as "a complete let-down" by Israel's delegates".

Israel's plan is to raise \$1.6 billion in aid from the US, \$1.3 billion for projects. But President Bush has been urged by congressional members to divert funds to its military and Latin America.

Mr Aras was expected to discuss new funding for Israel's Arrow missile project, better co-operation with the US, and a \$1.3 billion project.

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Tokyo fears new scandal as tycoon is arrested

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

TOKYO jangled with speculation yesterday that Japan is about to plunge into political chaos again, when it has barely recovered from the Recruit bribery scandal which toppled the government.

The alarm was set ringing by the sudden arrest of Mitsuhiro Kotani, a flamboyant tycoon with wide business and political contacts, on charges of stock manipulation. Jittery investors, fearing another scandal, sent Tokyo stock prices reeling.

Mr Kotani was arrested on Thursday night on charges of manipulating the share price of a large hotel chain, Fujita Tourist Enterprises. He is alleged to have used some of the 50 billion yen (£111 million) he netted from the Fujita deal to finance the takeover of Kokusai Kogyo in 1987-88.

The fact that Mr Kotani was arrested by the special investigative branch of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutor's Office, the most powerful arm of the judiciary, rather than the police, has stimulated speculation of a political link. It was the same office that handled the Recruit affair and investigated Mr Nakasone's links to Recruit.

A senior MP of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said yesterday: "If politicians are found to have made huge profits from stock transactions, this case might evolve into another Recruit stock-for-favours scandal."

Yoshitaka Kamimura, an aide to Mr Nakasone, was quick to distance his boss from Mr Kotani, and said they had had no dealings recently.

Several senior politicians and their aides are rumoured to have been involved with the activities of Koshin, a

Tokyo stocks stumpp. page 40

stock speculation company run by Mr Kotani. These activities are said to include the cornering of shares in Kokusai Kogyo, an aerial survey firm. Four Kokusai Kogyo executives were arrested last month for alleged tax fraud and still has fled to Australia.

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Arrested with Mr Kotani was Shuichi Yamamoto, former president of a construction firm, and an aide to Kunikichi Saito, once secretary-general of the LDP. Mr Saito said: "I never received shares from Mr Kotani and I have no special relationship with him."

But the spotlight is on Mr Nakasone, whose links to Kokusai Kogyo are the subject of an unsettled lawsuit.

Tokyo stocks stumpp. page 40

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Tokyo stocks stumpp. page 40

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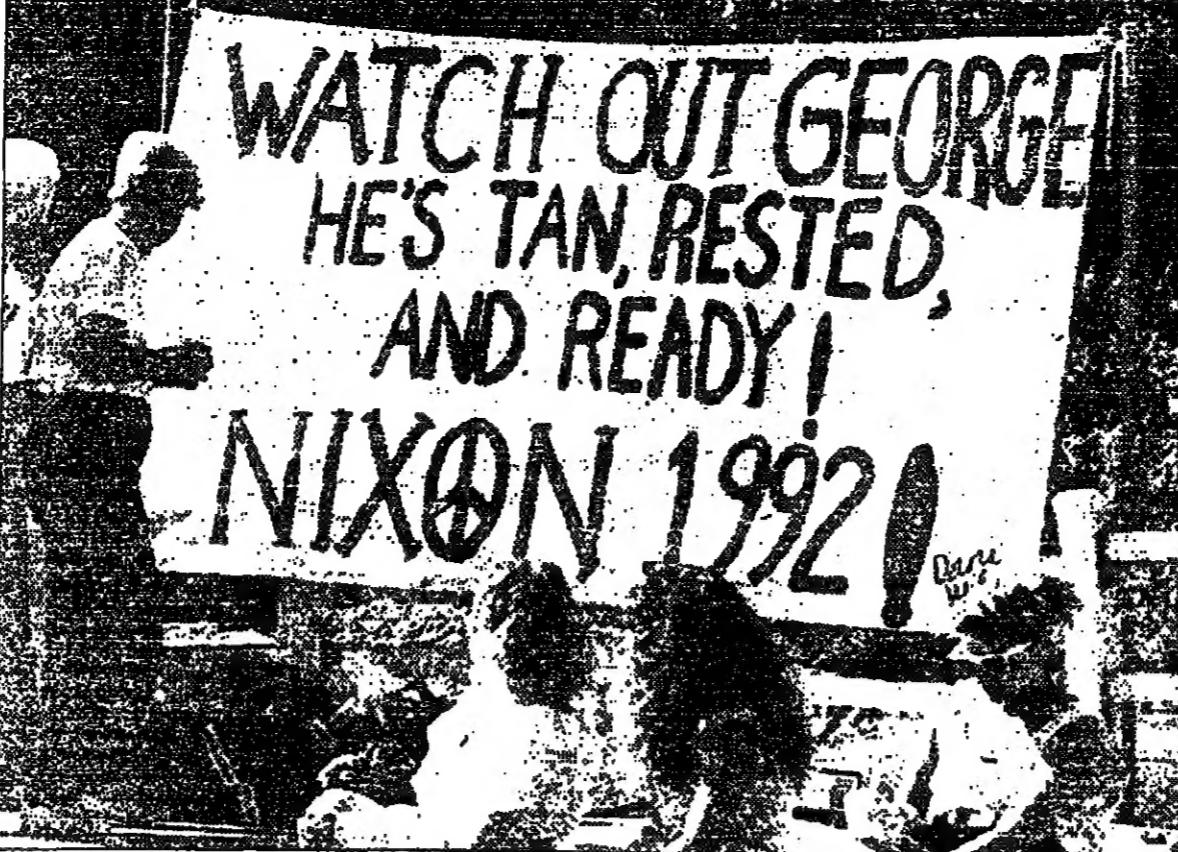
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Word power: a friendly warning to President Bush from well-wishers of Richard Nixon as the former president's presidential library was dedicated in Yorba Linda, California.

Seoul border overture rejected

From A CORRESPONDENT IN SEOUL

NORTH Korea has denounced the South's declaration that it will open its heavily fortified border temporarily next month as a propaganda trick designed to spoil a rally it plans to hold on Monday.

The Seoul prime minister's office telephoned the North after the announcement to explain the proposal and suggest a meeting on July 30 to work out details.

"The time has come to end total division," Mr Roh told South Koreans. "Korea must not remain the world's only land still partitioned by cold-war politics."

Mr Roh said there would be no restrictions on travellers from the North — still officially at war with the South. He also said that in the near future, foreigners would be permitted to travel directly

between the two Koreas. South Korea's largest dissident movements said the border opening was a step in the right direction and demanded the release of political prisoners.

While Mr Roh said the opening was unconditional, the unification board said leading dissidents would not be allowed to travel to Panmunjom on August 15 for a rally in the northern half of the truce village unless the North allowed free travel for the full five-day period.

Analysis and Western diplomats in Seoul are sceptical of the North's hardline leadership allowing South Koreans into its regimented society, except perhaps for dissidents, and say that although Mr Roh's move puts pressure on

the North, it is unlikely to have the same dramatic effect as recent events in Europe.

Opposition move: Two opposition leaders and the head of South Korea's largest dissident organisation yesterday set the stage for an anti-government alliance, and urged the ruling party to hold parliamentary and local elections soon. In a statement, Kim Dae Jung, of the Party for Peace and Democracy, Lee Taek, of the Democratic party, and Kim Kwan Suk, of the Conference for Promotion of Opposition Unity, said the Democratic Liberal party of Mr Roh would have to take all the responsibility for any "incidents" that might occur if it failed to meet their demands.

Leading article, page 13

Quake toll may rise to 1,000

Bangkok — Rescuers searched in vain for signs of life among collapsed buildings yesterday as officials feared that the death toll from the deadliest earthquake to hit the Philippines in 14 years could exceed 1,000.

Four days after the earthquake devastated this northern city, a US Marine observation plane on a relief mission crashed on a mountain near by, killing its pilot and injuring a crewman.

President Aquino called an emergency cabinet meeting and army rebels said they were suspending hostilities while the country recovered from the disaster. (Reuters)

Berry charged

St Charles, Missouri — The rock 'n' roll singer, Chuck Berry, has been charged with child abuse and possession of marijuana based on evidence seized in a raid on his home last month. (AP)

Killer elephants

Dhaka — Wild elephants went on a rampage, killing at least 28 people and destroying three villages in southeastern Bangladesh, press reports said.

Peru cabinet

Lima — Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller, the Peruvian prime minister-designate, proposed a cabinet including a Marxist and conservatives, saying that the choices represented pragmatism, not ideology. (AFP)

Brando accused

Papeete, French Polynesia — Cheyenne Brando, aged 20, the daughter of the actor Marlon Brando, was reportedly charged in connection with the murder of her boyfriend in Los Angeles. (AFP)

Chemical blast

Cincinnati — About 1,000 people had to leave their homes after explosions ripped through a chemical plant here, killing one person and injuring more than 60. (AP)

Firework deaths

Lisbon — Five workers were killed by an explosion in a fireworks factory in Fafe, northern Portugal. (AFP)

Man executed

Richmond, Virginia — Richard Bogg, aged 27, who was convicted of murdering an elderly widow, died in the electric chair here after the Supreme Court denied him a stay of execution. (AFP)

Children safer

Geneva — About 70 per cent of the world's children aged less than a year have now been immunised against the six main vaccine-preventable illnesses such as polio and diphtheria, the World Health Organisation said. (Reuters)

Rangoon still holds Suu Kyi

From NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK

ever, that there were signs of opposition frustration over the party leaders' soft approach to the government. Daw Suu Kyi, aged 45, created the party and drew in the votes, but her detention and the imprisonment of senior colleagues have left the party rudderless. Those in control now are seen as no match for the military regime, which is intimidating party officials.

The party's failure to challenge the government has disappointed many people who voted for it and could ultimately cost it much support. "That's the way the military are nullifying the election victory," the diplomat said.

Senior diplomats in Rangoon said that the military junta had clearly never intended to release Daw Suu Kyi, who has become Burma's best hope for the future. Under their own laws, the military rulers may extend her detention for six months, and for two more six-month periods after that.

The crowds that gathered outside her house in northern Rangoon yesterday were dispersed by troops who were there in far greater strength than usual. Daw Suu Kyi has been living virtually in solitary confinement since her arrest, allegedly for endangering national security. Dr Michael Aris, her English husband, and their two schoolboy sons, who live in Oxford, are not allowed to visit her. She is permitted family letters, and parcels sent by the British Embassy.

Although her party won more than 80 per cent of the seats contested at the election, the military has made no move to hand over power. "There is growing despair among the people," said one diplomat. "They feel the election, which promised so much, was a monstrous sham. They know if they go out to the streets to protest they will be shot as demonstrators were in large numbers two years ago." The diplomat said, how-

The government has given a warning that the meeting may not be used to convene a national parliament. There are growing demands for such action, especially from the young radicals who comprise two-thirds of those elected and who until now have been restrained by party elders. "The meeting could be a tinder box," the diplomat said.



Suu Kyi: accused of endangering national security

India and Pakistan play down war talk

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

of Kashmir where there was no insurgency.

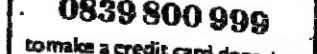
The size of India's military presence reflects its assessment of Pakistan's capabilities in Kashmir. Senior military officers in Delhi said it would be a mistake to think that India could inflict a short sharp defeat on Pakistan, despite the large differences in the size of their forces.

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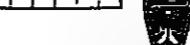
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Inter-faith the great healer

Clifford Longley

One of the last acts of the Polish parliament in 1939, as German guns thundered ever closer, was to elect the Blessed Virgin Mary to be Queen of Poland in perpetuity. There could be no more poignant demonstration of the intense relationship between religion and national pride.

In the same spirit Pope John Paul II insisted in 1978 that regardless of the rules of heraldry, he wanted a large M on his coat of arms, for Mary, Queen of Poland. Addressing Polish émigrés during his visit to Britain in 1982, he paid tribute to the Polish priests who died in the Battle of Britain. He did not say they had died "defending Britain", but "for Poland". And that is how Poles had seen it; they had borrowed the British war to continue their own.

During Eastern Europe's years of communist rule, the West saw religion and national pride as a force threatening the cohesion of the Soviet empire, and hence as potentially pro-Western. But the end of that empire, at least outside the Soviet Union itself, has changed the situation. The 1989 East European revolutions were as much a triumph of nationalism as of democracy, and Europe has yet to face up to the consequences.

Nationalism is seldom entirely secular, and seldom fits easily into secular political geography. Political maps tell us much less about the past, present and future of Europe than religious maps charting the frontiers of Protestantism and Catholicism, Calvinism and Orthodoxy, Orthodoxy and Islam. The reunification of Germany across the first of those lines is a triumph of nationalism over religious differences — or perhaps, more truthfully, a triumph of decades of ecumenism, which is the one new force which may yet prevent the history of European tribal warfare repeating itself.

Within Russia and the Ukraine there is an invisible line between two sorts of Orthodoxy, one looking to Constantinople, the other to Moscow. And the Great Schism between Greek Orthodoxy and Catholicism, which formally dates from the 11th century but in reality from 500 years earlier, is now the cause of one of Mr Gorbachev's worst headaches, as growing Ukrainian nationalism finds a ready focus in Ukrainian Catholics. There will be much agonised thought before the Pope is welcome in Kiev, in case he sets light to some very dry nationalist tinder (intentionally or otherwise).

The election of a Polish pope in 1978 was crucial to the rise of the Solidarity movement and was one of the first signs of the East European nationalist avalanche. Within Russia and the Ukraine there is an invisible line between two sorts of Orthodoxy, one looking to Constantinople, the other to Moscow. And the Great Schism between Greek Orthodoxy and Catholicism, which formally dates from the 11th century but in reality from 500 years earlier, is now the cause of one of Mr Gorbachev's worst headaches, as growing Ukrainian nationalism finds a ready focus in Ukrainian Catholics. There will be much agonised thought before the Pope is welcome in Kiev, in case he sets light to some very dry nationalist tinder (intentionally or otherwise).

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The Russian Orthodox Church has sought to outmanoeuvre the rising religious force in Ukrainian nationalism by renaming its own Ukrainian region the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, hijacking the title of the church now emerging from the shadows alongside the

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Nicholas Ridley's political demise raises again an environmental hazard which the health and safety executive resolutely refuses to face: the decommissioning of public figures.

We have heard about dismantling those "ageing reactors", but what about the ageing reactionaries? The half-life of a redundant magnox core is well-known, but how much do we know about the half-lives of the redundant Marxist hardcore? Even the soft-core poses dangers of low-level socialist waste. Tony Benn remains highly radioactive, not to say television-active.

Mr Ridley must be the prime cause of public anxiety. This impressive but volatile reactor is now smoking quietly in a field in Cirencester and Tewkesbury while officials from Conservative central office pace gingerly around the site, keeping their distance and wondering how best to limit further damage. The danger of total meltdown has probably passed, but nobody can be sure when a sudden escape of toxic gas may not embarrass the lady who first installed him.

Look, after all, at the Thorpe Powell reactor. A rapid decommissioning technique backfired, the Powell becoming far more dangerous after they tried to switch it off than when in service. Years later, one blast from the old powerhouse was enough to turn a general election against the Tories.

Or the "Barbara" Castle. They never did succeed in closing this institution. Dismantled and reassembled in Strasbourg, it continued to draw admirers of the "old Labour party", distracting attention from the new one. Now it goes on permanent exhibition in the House of Lords.

With other public figures, the Lords has proved an effective way of cooling hot metal slowly, to prevent explosions and fractures. The occasional low rumbling comes from Jim Callaghan, but Alec Douglas-Home and Willie Whitelaw have become favourites with visitors and are safe even for children to visit.

Quintin Hogg, however,

should be approached with caution. Harold Macmillan provides the warning here. After decades of inactivity, this elderly generator suddenly emitted a series of huge shocks. So remember: if you see an unattended elder statesman on a train, don't touch it, don't try to remove it; inform the authorities as soon as possible, and keep well clear.

But I am not worried about Mrs Thatcher. This powerhouse will carry on in full production until somebody cuts the mains, whereupon it will turn into a harmless, long-lived, but surprisingly dull Westminster landmark.

I am reminded of what they foresaw for the old Billingsgate fish market. It remained erect upon its foundations, said the experts, only because its huge refrigerators, working day and night, had frozen the ground around it. Once switched off, everything would thaw and the whole thing would slip with a sudden grace into mud. So might she.

Unlike Mr Heath, this dangerous structure stands unmoved while from time to time bits of him drop on people's heads. Or Denis Healey. This great power station, like the one at Battersea, has been removed from the national grid but remains an imposing monument. It seems such a waste. From time to time there have been plans to put the structure to some new use, but nobody is sure what.

An early experiment with that Chingford Chernobyl, Norman Tebbit, has yielded uncertain results. The City acquired the institution with a view to turning it to peaceful use, yet this has not prevented the emission of jets of scalding steam.

As for the Ridley, I am advised that, encased in concrete by *The Spectator*, surrounded by gardens, plastered all over with the balm of prime ministerial gratitude and the detoxifying filter of a long holiday painting watercolours, shrouded in press boredom, and then buried beneath a million tons of public amnesia, he may just be made safe for succeeding generations. But with this reactor, nothing is certain.

Stuart MacLure on John MacGregor's performance in his first year as education secretary

Attention to detail is paying off

The government has invested heavily in reform of the education system, so naturally it is watching anxiously for signs of progress. How are things doing? What sort of end-of-term report is in store for the education secretary, John MacGregor?

It is just over a year since he took over the department of education and science from Kenneth Baker. By the time he arrived, Baker had completed the glorious job of pushing through the Education Reform Act. What remained for Mr MacGregor was the hard graft of implementation: putting the secondary legislation in place, bringing in the provisions of the Act stage by stage, and making the necessary adjustments.

John MacGregor is a highly competent Scot, perfect for the patient attention to detail that is now required. He has spent the year working doggedly on the national curriculum, local management of schools, operation of the provisions for grant-maintained schools and opting-out, and on the financing of higher education. He pushed through the Student Loans Act against opposition from the vice-chancellors,

and has worked hard for the better understanding between the education and employment departments which is essential if education and training for those aged 16 to 18 are ever to be coherent.

This adds up to a pretty good record, but is it enough or do his colleagues want miracles? A report in *The Times* on Monday suggested that there is murmuring against Mr MacGregor in some Tory circles. Right-wing orthodoxy is that "managerial" ministers are always liable to be seduced by the administrators and practitioners, and that this is particularly true in education.

Mr MacGregor has approached the task of implementing the national curriculum as a practical man. He has simplified the requirements for primary-school testing and assessment, and begun to ask what compromises will be needed to fit a quart into a pint pot for 14-16 year olds. To some observers on the lookout for any sign of weakening, this looks like backing down in the face of professional opposition. But they are wrong and he is right.

Other critics have had a field-

day with the balance in the history curriculum between knowledge and understanding. For obvious and sensible reasons, the working group set up by Mr Baker was anxious to avoid a set of state-prescribed facts which every student had to learn, and this meant that it was unwilling, in preparing assessment schemes, to separate knowledge and understanding. Mr MacGregor has yet to give his verdict, but whatever he does will not assuage his critics.

The history controversy demonstrates what a political minefield the curriculum is liable to become. History is (among other things) about the sense of national identity, the fostering of a positive self-image as Britons, making children believe they are uniquely lucky to live here. Nation-states depend on such fictions, but it would hardly be decent to spell all this out in the objectives for a national curriculum, so the debate is at one remove from reality.

On grant-maintained schools, Mr MacGregor has little dramatic to report: 44 have been allowed to opt out of local authority control, and a further 26 are waiting to do so or considering the matter.

Nobody should call this a rapid build-up. Most have decided to opt out only to avoid being closed or merged in local organisations. No doubt some of the schemes frustrated in this way were bad and would not have been approved, but in other cases there was a simple clash between the interests of a single school and the local authority's estimate of the best interests of all children in the area.

One ambition must be to reduce the gap between the public and independent sectors. In some leafy suburbs and country towns parents are satisfied with the local schools. Grant-maintained schools may find a social niche which appeals to middle-class parents. City technology colleges will be popular and in some cases extremely good, but will be few and far between. Sixth-form colleges and tertiary colleges already draw up to 25 per cent of their students from independent schools, and they are clearly able to deliver a service that families value. But money still talks: if you send your son or daughter to a school which charges 50 or 100 per cent more than your local secondary school is able to spend, the difference will show.

The author was formerly editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*.

When Britain stood apart yet thought in harmony

It is clear that by a decisive majority the British people now favour a political and economic union with Europe, even if it results in a partial loss of sovereignty, and that opposition to it is only a rearguard action in a lost battle. But it is equally clear that the British do not realize what that the revolution this is in the national outlook.

It is a total and surprising rejection of the historical evolution which created English nationalism in 300 years and sustained it for a further 300. This nationalism first appeared in the reign of Edward III with the Statute of Praemunire of 1351, which gave expression to English resentment at the exercise of any foreign jurisdiction in England. Thus, English nationalism and English literature are contemporaries. English nationalism reached maturity through Henry VIII's reformation and was consolidated by Oliver Cromwell, but even before that Shakespeare could write: "O England! model to thy inward greatness, like a little world with a mighty heart."

The local clergy can either stand behind the stone-throwing crowds, condoning ethnic mayhem, or they can stand together, urging peace, making connections, cooling tempers. Thanks to ecumenism, they are now much more likely to do the latter. For years ecumenical dialogue was regarded as a hobby for the few, who often found themselves dismissed as "ecumenists", but now they may hold an important key to future peace in Europe.

That was the voice not only of the victor of Agincourt, but of young English nationalism. This retained its uncompromising insularity until the middle of this century. The decision to go on fighting alone in 1940 was its last self-assertion. From the European point of view, that had no meaning.

This nationalism had given the English a bad name among the nations of Europe. Even so detached a European thinker as Montesquieu could write that insularity gave the English an arrogant assertiveness which made them feared in Europe. The anthem *Rule Britannia* did not deceive the Europeans into believing that the sole purpose of British sea-power was to prevent Britons from becoming slaves to foreign nations. More realistically, though rather maliciously, they thought this power was intended to oppress weak peoples through commercial imperialism and to fight other strong nations out of rivalry. Even the gentle French poet André Chénier described Britain as *cette île farouche*.

The European view of the matter did not make the British less staunch nationalists, but now this nationalism is to be thrown



Nirad Chaudhuri believes our greatest cultural impact on Europe was in the days of nationalist isolation

overboard. Such a thing cannot happen without ineluctable psychological compulsions, but in the public debate about the question there is no confession of these, and perhaps not even an awareness. It is all wordmongering and setting out of shallow arguments, and these must be tested against their historical antecedents. No one in Britain should be so naive as to think that their country can become more powerful, wealthy, or industrially efficient by this merger than it was in its national isolation. Nor should anyone hope or believe that a united states of Europe will raise European civilisation to a greater height by creating a wider and deeper interaction between the English and the European mind.

It may be admitted that in the present stage of historical evolution all the nations of Europe need political and economic unity in order to preserve, not increase, material prosperity. But there can

be no intangible gain for these nations from such unity. On the contrary, one is startled to find that in spite of the growth of internationalism, the interaction between the English mind and the European mind has virtually ceased today, whereas in the days of nationalist isolation in political affairs, intellectual cooperation actively created a common European cultural life.

In this respect, the contrast between the past and the present is sad.

Between the past and the present is the case of Scott. He was not only British but very Scottish. Yet he inspired one of the greatest novels of European literature, *Marmion's Promise*, and influenced European historiography as well. His *Invictus* made the French historian Augustin Thierry write the history of the Norman conquest of England, while in Germany von Ranke was led by *Quentin Durward* to found the new German scientific school of history. Such an impact is inconceivable today.

The British, for their part, were more European-minded in the days of their notorious insularity than they are now with their new "Europeanism". In the 16th century they became thoroughly Italianate, and this penchant for Italy continued until the end of the 19th century. English middle-class girls, for instance, sang Italian songs in Italian. In the 17th century the British looked to

day, and the case of Scott is the most significant because he was not only British but very Scottish. Yet he inspired one of the greatest novels of European literature, *Marmion's Promise*, and influenced European historiography as well. His *Invictus* made the French historian Augustin Thierry write the history of the Norman conquest of England, while in Germany von Ranke was led by *Quentin Durward* to found the new German scientific school of history. Such an impact is inconceivable today.

The British are behaving in exactly this manner by being obsessed with the infrastructure of their national existence, which provides the real pressure behind the movement towards Europe.

There is nothing unnatural or shameful in this behaviour, but it is not one to open a new phase of life for the British people.

Nirad Chaudhuri, author of *The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian* and *They Hand, Great Anarch*, has made his home in Britain since 1970.

Europe for religious doctrine. In the 16th they became participants in European classicism, and in the 19th they succumbed to German romanticism, philosophy, classical and biblical scholarship, and, of course, music.

In those days distinguished English writers, introduced important or significant European writers to their general educated public, and even we in Bengal profited from these essays. At school and in my early university days, I myself learned about Alfred de Vigny from an essay by John Stuart Mill and about Madame and Eugenie de Guérin as well as Joubert from the essays by Matthew Arnold. I also learned about von Ranke from an essay by Macaulay. Today English men of letters do not render this service to their readers.

So when one considers the present situation with its drawing back from Europe in the intellectual sphere and drawing towards Europe in the political and economic, one is almost shocked by the contradiction. Yet in the light of the historical evolution of the British people, the seeming opposites can be recognized as correlative and complements.

Historically, Britain is an aged nation, and an aged nation behaves like an aged individual. When a man is in the full vigour of life he pursues his ambitions or vocation with self-reliance, sensitivity to ideas and feelings which enhance the quality of life, and with indifference to his physical condition, which he leaves to take care of itself. Old men, by contrast, lose both self-confidence and sense of vocation, become anxious about their existence and confabulate with other old men about their physical ailments.

The British are behaving in exactly this manner by being obsessed with the infrastructure of their national existence, which provides the real pressure behind the movement towards Europe.

There is nothing unnatural or shameful in this behaviour, but it is not one to open a new phase of life for the British people.

be extended beyond five years. This is how it works. The present parliament was formed (as opposed to elected) on June 17, 1987, which means that the government can go on until midnight on June 16, 1992. The electoral timetable then allows specified periods for nomination and notice, which take us through to a polling date of Thursday, July 9. In other words, an administration convinced that it is doomed can in effect steal almost an entire month after its allotted five years.

The situation is not quite unpreceded. Sir Alec Douglas-Home went to the country on October 15, 1964, five years and one week to the day after Macmillan had been re-elected in 1959. But even if Mrs Thatcher sees this one through to the bitter end, she would have to win again in 1992 to overtake Lord Salisbury in length of service as PM, and it would take a further 18 months to pass Lord Liverpool. To beat Walpole, she would need to stay at No 10 until the year 2000. Now there's a thought...

the host of memories it evokes among those who knew it during its prewar heyday. The Duke of Windsor, when Prince of Wales, danced the charleston there. Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh, Charlie Chaplin and Sophie Tucker were regulars. Marlene Dietrich had a brush there with an unimportant photographer who asked her to show a bit of leg as in the film *The Blue Angel*.

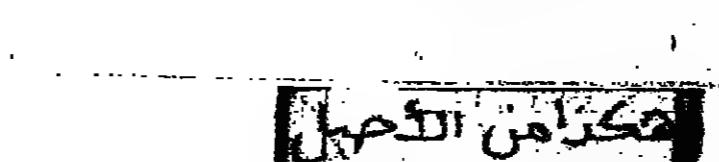
The listed building is full of memorabilia of its famous clients, all of which will tomorrow be put into storage on the outside chance that the phoenix might arise from the ashes. "We are still in the business of running dance halls, and if a suitable West End site close by becomes available we shall look at it," says Alan Randell of Mecca Leisure, the owners.

"But the Cafe was unique. It straddled six decades of changing dance style and still remained the place to be seen." Whatever happens, the ghosts will still be tea dancing long after the lambs have thankfully been forgotten.

And on and on

Not a few eyebrows were raised when the prime minister told Tory MPs this week that she might well delay the general election until the last possible date, July 9, 1992. Most recalled that they had been elected on June 11, 1987, and those not versed in constitutional law assumed quite reasonably that best this guaranteed them a job until June 10, 1992. But the House of Commons library confirms that, as usual, Mrs Thatcher is correct, and the sell-by date on a parliament can quite legitimately

• Only this week, indeed, Mrs Thatcher was asking for suggestions on how the arrival of the millennium can be celebrated — suggesting that her continued presence in Downing Street would be the best of all possible celebrations, and instead, based on what she saw in Houston recently, she suggested a volunteer army of street-cleaners. Many fear that if we wait that long the litter will be up to our necks. Diary readers can surely think of more imaginative ways to mark the year 2000.



Another *Correspondent* shareholder, *The Guardian*, is alarmed

that they have more say, and in

many parts of the country as they

fewer new members they will find

they are up against a shortage of

teachers in key subjects. The

national curriculum will take 10

years to make a real impact. There

will be few dead dividends.

One ambition must be to reduce



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

SPORT IN THE BEARPIT

The impending visit to South Africa of Sam Ramsamy, who has been commissioned by the International Olympic Committee to assess the racial politics of sport in the republic, is unlikely to herald a magnanimous gesture in response to President F W de Klerk's gradual but systematic repudiation of the old Afrikaner order. Pretoria will have had few illusions. Mr Ramsamy, chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, is a veteran of the campaign to isolate South African sport.

By appointing him, the arbiters of participation in the Olympic Games are signalling that they have no intention of readmitting South Africa until black majority rule is established. The Gleneagles accord remains in force. There is little prospect of the cricketing authorities — terrified of losing lucrative tours to non-white countries — lifting their boycott. South Africa retains a seat on rugby's ruling body, but only in the sense that Banque had a seat at Macbeth's table.

The sporting boycott, unlike other sanctions, has impinged on South African whites. It has also been effective in breaking down much formal, and some informal, racial discrimination. For that reason, anti-apartheid campaigners argue, the vice should not be loosened. That argument has convinced many who are critical of sanctions in general. As long as Nelson Mandela and other black leaders wish the rest of the world to continue to isolate South African sport, the ban will remain.

The aborted unofficial cricket tour led by Mike Gatting earlier this year was the exception that proved this rule. With hindsight, that tour can be seen as a clumsy attempt to break apartheid's cordon sanitaire, or at least it came a year too soon. The boldness of Mr de Klerk's proposed changes was not as evident as it has since become, and most people could not yet contemplate the resumption of sporting links with the outside world.

Now the threat of an authoritarian white backlash is sufficiently grave to give even the sternest critic of Pretoria cause to ponder the best approach to isolationism. Mr de Klerk may have successfully stolen the clothes of white South African liberals. If he loses touch

with mainstream Afrikaner opinion, the president could yet fail and give way to forces less hospitable to gradual change.

The art of compromise which he must display in the coming months, as one bulwark of apartheid after another collapses, requires that he be able to show his enemies to the right that the outside world understands the need for change and that change offers its own rewards. If those outside South Africa deny Mr de Klerk even symbolic encouragement — and there is no encouragement more symbolic than in sport — he will no longer be seen to be negotiating from strength.

An additional irony to the boycott is that the isolation of some South African sports affects more blacks than whites, notably athletics, boxing and the predominantly black sport of soccer. All have abolished apartheid. Of the two remaining apartheid laws which can be said to affect sport, the Separate Amenities Act is due to be abolished soon. The Group Areas Act may survive for longer, but it too has been slated for abolition. Short of a right-wing rebellion, which is not a pure figment of the imagination, formal segregation is certain to go. It is difficult to justify penalising sports which are played by the underdogs of the apartheid system and which forces dozens of talented (black) South African footballers to seek their fortunes abroad.

Aware of this state of affairs, football's international body Fifa is reported to be considering the readmission of South Africa. If Fifa were to take that step, perhaps on a symbolic date such as that of the abolition of the Separate Amenities Act, it would provide a real incentive for whites to see its desegregation throughout South Africa the advent not of revolution but of normality. Toleration feeds on itself.

Sport is rooted in culture, and South African blacks and whites will doubtless display different sporting preferences. But to free sport from ideology is a precondition of real freedom of choice for individual sportsmen. The watching world should help to hoist one sport after another out of the bearpit of racial politics.

KOREA BEGINS TO THAW

The permafrost zone of the Cold War lies on the 38th parallel of the Korean peninsula, along which runs a heavily fortified wilderness several miles deep. To the north of the demilitarised zone, there are more than a million troops. South Korea boasts a force of 600,000, backed by 43,000 American servicemen. No rail, telephone or even postal services cross the line; for four decades, there has been almost no contact between ten million divided families. North Koreans cannot even receive southern radio broadcasts, and South Korea's National Security Law punishes "unauthorised" visits north with heavy prison sentences.

These walls will not come tumbling down at the sound of a trumpet. Years of visits across the Berlin Wall preceded its dismantling, and the Koreans, unlike the Germans, fought each other for three years and are still technically at war. But cracks are discernible. North Korea's speedy dismissal as "fraudulent propaganda" of yesterday's offer by President Roh Tae Woo to open the border for five days next month was as predictable as Seoul's rejection of a similar, if more limited, North Korean gesture two weeks ago. Yet Pyongyang's rejection was qualified by demands for more steps to dismantle north-south barriers. The customary northern reference to Mr Roh as a "traitor" was significantly dropped.

South Korea's "nordpolitik" is beginning to hit its target. Seoul's strategy for reunification has been to break down Pyongyang's resistance by forging relations with North Korea's traditional allies. The first triumph came in 1988, when both the Soviet Union and China, the North's patrons, attended the Seoul Olympics. Since then, South Korea has established relations with most East European countries and infuriated North Korea's Kim Il Sung with a June summit in San Francisco between Mr Roh and President Gorbachev. Diplomatic progress is slower with Peking, but trade is booming, amounting to \$3.2 billion last year.

Seoul has much to offer North Korea's

friends. President Kim's doctrine of self-reliance, far from producing the intended results, has made the once prosperous north dependent on Moscow (or Peking) for cash, goods and military hardware. Pyongyang's hardline communist solidarity has become an embarrassment to Moscow, and less relevant even to Peking. South Korea, by contrast, offers a source of investment and consumer goods and a large, stable market for Soviet raw materials: trade is climbing towards \$1 billion.

Moscow is also seeking North Korean permission to run a gas pipeline across its territory. The Korean giant, Hyundai, is planning a \$600 million investment in a Siberian petrochemical complex, and South Korean presidential advisers and businessmen already dream of a high-speed train link through Manchuria to the heart of Siberia.

North Korea, economically stagnant and increasingly isolated, has swung between loud denunciation, propaganda gestures and quiet, tentative, accommodation. Abroad, Pyongyang has started its own "sudopolitik", putting out feelers to West Germany and holding talks in Peking with the United States. Last month, for the first time, it handed over the remains of American GIs killed in the Korean War. At home, bicycles, hitherto outmoded as "vehicles of aesthetic pollution" have begun to appear on the capital's streets, cautious price reforms are being mooted and the odd pedlar and taxi have made their appearance, suggesting the beginnings of surrender to the "individualism" of private enterprise.

Next Thursday, a date, probably in September, will be set for the first meeting of North and South Korean prime ministers since the 1953 armistice. Almost certainly, the "great leader" will have to die, or be eased out of office, before such meetings bring about reunification. But some North Koreans, at least, are beginning to concede that the invitation ultimately permits of no refusal.

ACHUB EIN HEITHOEDD
SÂBHAIL AR CÀNAIN
GWITH AGAN YETHOW

The decision to drop Cornish as a GCSE subject is a lesson for Britain's Celtic fringe. Only six examination candidates on the far side of the Tamar came forward in two years. Clearly once a language has died a natural death, more than good intentions will be needed to revive it.

Rearguard actions elsewhere to preserve the ancient languages of Britain have recently won some small victories. In Scotland Gaelic is enjoying a revival. Although only 80,000 speak it, there are pockets — in the Western Isles for instance — where it survives as the first language for some families. The Scottish Office recently budgeted £8 million for more Gaelic radio and TV programmes. Even in Glasgow and Edinburgh, some middle-class parents now send their bairns to all-Gaelic schools.

Mightier battles are being waged in Wales. About half of the principality spoke Welsh at the beginning of the century, but only one in five (just over 500,000) at the time of the last census in 1981. Whether the steady decline has been arrested will not be known until after next year's census. As Welsh secretary, Peter Walker founded the Welsh Language Board two years ago to draw up an official strategy.

Ethnic profiles in Wales and Scotland are sharper than in Cornwall. There, the last native Cornish-speaker is commonly believed to have been a fishwife who died in Mousehole 200 years ago. The Cornish Language Board has attempted to rescue the language but only about 2,000 people now claim to understand Cornish. A language needs more than scholars

tic interest and curiosity. Where it still lives, it needs vigorous protection.

Visitors to Wales are already accustomed to seeing place names printed in two languages: Cardiff/Caerdydd, Swansea/Abertawe or Newtown/Y Drenewydd for example. The Welsh Language Board as part of its five-year plan has called for Welsh to have equal validity in law. Welsh has become almost chic as a result. Even in mid-Morgannwg, in relatively cosmopolitan southeast Wales, the popularity of all-Welsh nursery groups and schools is growing.

But if Welsh is to survive the next century, it will probably need legislation. The county of Dyfed in southwest Wales provoked hostility last year when it ordered that children in 200 primary schools in rural areas should be taught in Welsh up to the age of seven. These are largely Welsh-speaking areas and the requirement was an attempt to secure the language into the next century. What evidence there is suggests that to be brought up bilingual is no great handicap. Those from outside Wales who decide to live there must expect to lump it.

Whether even this is enough to save the Welsh language remains to be seen. The Irish Republic is officially bilingual and keeps Irish alive by making it compulsory for civil servants and for all children until they leave school. This has done little to popularise a near-extinct language. In Wales and Scotland, Celtic still lives, but a ruthless strategy may be needed if this invigorating aspect of Britain's cultural history is to be conserved.

Spotlight needed on British films

From Mr Nigel Havers

Sir, I have just read an article on British films which appeared in your columns in 1949. Even then, it was stated, the industry's future fortunes "will be decided by the success or failure of film producers' efforts to reduce costs and to increase the proportion of good films" (leading article, April 1, 1949).

Many of us are trying to do precisely that, but the resources available to Hollywood producers are simply not available in this country. It seems that half has changed in nearly half a century.

In 1949, however, 40 per cent of films shown in British cinemas had, by law, to be British films. The French, our partners in Europe, pursue a similar policy to support their industry.

As part of a production company which aims to produce British feature films of the highest possible standard, I appeal to the Government to think seriously about our industry. It is a vital part of our cultural heritage.

Re-introducing a quota system would be a drastic step, probably opening up a tit-for-tar attitude with America that we could well do without. But it seems to me that a succession of governments over the last 41 years have been less than favourable to our industry, allowing our cinemas to be swamped with American products which, to put it kindly, have been often well below the standard that our own industry could easily produce.

This Government, under enormous pressure, has come up with a £5 million peace offering (report, June 16). Advertising campaigns often spend that amount of money on making half-a-dozen commercials. It is just the Attenboroughs and Puttnams of this business who need to be consulted: what about the thousands of talented and eager other producers, directors, actors and actresses in this country, who need direct encouragement from the Government to put British films back on a global footing?

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL HAVERS,
125 Gloucester Road, SW7.

Questioning suspects

From Mr Neville Sarony

Sir, Your leader, "French lesson for the law" (July 18), advocates involvement of the Crown Prosecution Service much earlier in the investigative process. My experience, both in the UK and in Hong Kong, proves that early involvement, particularly in complex commercial crimes, has been of enormous benefit to the prosecution.

However, the suggestion that the CPS lawyers should be able to question suspects and interview witnesses is impractical and fraught with potential problems. If the lawyers having the conduct of the case are directly involved in the investigative process this will inevitably negate their objective judgement, which is so vital a role in the machinery of criminal justice and which is one of the basic reasons for removing summary prosecutions from the hands of the police in the first place.

Secondly, participation in interviews of witnesses and a fortiori questioning of suspects involve the lawyer in the evidential aspects of the case and thus make him or her compellable as a witness, a situation which is wholly contrary to our tradition of professionally disinterested prosecutors.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE SARONY,
2 Harcourt Buildings,
Temple, EC4.

In the public eye

From Mr Robert Edwards

Sir, The Times, Guardian, Daily Telegraph, and almost every other national newspaper published on Tuesday what is surely a classic picture of the beleaguered Mr Nicholas Ridley peering round the wall of his Cotswold home at the posse of photographers outside.

One recommendation of the Calcutt committee is that it should be a criminal offence to take a photograph "of an individual who is on private property, without his consent, with a view to its publication with intent that the individual shall be identifiable".

Quite a thought, is it not, that if this law was already on the statute book every single editor who published that photograph would have risked going to jail, including one distinguished member of the Calcutt committee?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT EDWARDS,
74 Duns Tew,
Oxford.

July 18.

Dental contracts

From the Chairman of the General Dental Services Committee

Sir, Your correspondent Mr S. M. Daniell (July 16) says that a new NHS method of paying for children's dental care will be inappropriate in socially and dentally disadvantaged areas. He gives this as the reason for the recent referendum "no" to the new NHS contract. This is implausible.

There was majority support for the new contract in the north of England which, dentally, is much like Scotland and Northern Ireland where the vote went against.

The vote suggests that there were non-dental influences on the referendum result, and demonstrates the frailty of a referendum as a decision-making tool.

Benefits of health service reforms

From the Secretary of State for Health

Sir, Dr James LeFanu's article (July 18) on the changes taking place in the NHS and on GP fund-holding in particular is confused and confusing that I must try to correct some of the misconceptions contained in it.

The budget-holding scheme gives GPs control of significant sums of NHS money. They will be free to refer patients where they judge best and make whatever contracts will best serve the interest of their patients.

There is nothing complex about this. The referral system will remain the same. But fund-holders will be in a much stronger position to specify to hospitals and consultants the quality of service which they expect their patients to receive because their referrals will be backed by NHS funds. And they will be better placed to make sure that their patients get the best value for money.

Dr LeFanu's assertions about the existing management costs of the NHS are ill-founded. The figure of 4 per cent of revenue budget for NHS administration costs is often quoted but is a myth.

It relates only to the administrative costs of health authority headquarters. It omits completely the cost of managing the hospitals, clinics and surgeries where the service is actually delivered. Nobody knows what the real management costs of the current system

are. Dr LeFanu is equally incorrect in his assertion that far more lawyers and accountants will be needed to help fund-holders. There will be a need for better and tighter management all round and we are making the necessary investment. But the cost of this will be more than paid for by the benefits it brings in improving the quality and quantity of care the NHS can provide. There will also be additional work for fund-holders but fund-holding practices will be able to claim an allowance of £32,000 a year to help meet the costs incurred.

The acid test of confidence in the scheme is the number of GPs coming forward. Dr LeFanu is out of step with his colleagues who see the potential benefits. About 950 practices have expressed interest in the scheme: a significant number of those eligible to become fund-holders. And about 400 practices are now committed to undertaking the preparatory work to become fund-holders from April 1 next year.

I am sure that GPs in those practices have made their choice because they will be able to play an even more significant role in improving the quality of care for patients.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH CLARKE,
Department of Health,
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall, SW1.
July 19.

Concern to keep country barns

From Mrs Mary J. Boughton

Sir, The answer to Yvonne Thom's question, "Too late to shut the barn door?" (article, July 14) is quite simply — Yes, much too late.

In this district there are few old stone barns left to preserve, conserve, or even to convert. As has become all too common in recent years every available barn, used or unused, has been converted into houses, many of them second homes.

We have not only lost the barns, with their historic and aesthetic individuality, but now have in their place mainly houses which are unlikely in for most of the year and therefore contribute nothing to the community. None is within the price range of local young people. Although the very last barn was a listed building, this made no difference at all.

Blame must lie with the planning authorities, particularly the appeal processes. If conservation is to be effective the local planning authority must be given sharp teeth and be certain that refusal of applications will not, almost certainly, be overturned on appeal.

Villages are living working communities, often struggling to survive in these times of urbanisation and centralisation. Everybody who buys a second home or a retirement home in the country should remember that the chances are that it will be a converted barn or a farmworker's dwelling that they are moving into.

Yours sincerely,
M. BOUGHTON,
Gullivers, Shipton Gorge,
Bridport, Dorset.

July 17.

From Mrs Janet Coenen

Sir, Having converted a barn for my own use, illustrated in your "Weekend Living", I have come to some conclusions. Not all barns are necessarily stately or even aesthetically pleasing. Standards should be established to determine whether a barn is "unique" in some way. If it is, it should then, through the collaboration of owner, local authority, etc, be protected and maintained, preferably to continue as an agricultural building. If it is genuinely redundant, an alternative use should be found, connected with the community, location permitting.

Such designated buildings should not under any circumstances have a change of use to "dwellings" because I do not see how, realistically, such a change of identity, with totally different practical and emotional considerations, can be made without "sacrifices". Barns merit preservation should remain authentic in their design and use, ultimately taking their place as monuments to an earlier agricultural society and serving as a vital continuing link with the past.

The barn which I converted, however, fell squarely into the "un-unique" category. Its only point of interest being a decaying wooden arch in the entrance (now restored). A neighbour best summed up its general condition: "It will take a miracle to make something out of that ruin". Well, not exactly a miracle, but hard work, cooperation, quality materials and skilled craftsmanship.

What has evolved is a stone-clad building, designed on traditional lines with hopefully an aura of humanity rather than sterility. Any stoniness my barn may have is recently acquired.

Yours truly,
JANET COENEN,
Westcombe Barn,
Dartington, South Devon.

Rejoinder on Kenya

From the Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service

Sir, That we have problems in Kenya is not in dispute, but they are not as Christopher Walker ("Is Britain too soft on Moi?", July 19) has presented them.

The Kikuyu are not a majority in the country. Peace returned well over a week ago and violence is not threatening "to spill on to the streets". Hooliganism was, I might add, a large part of the original problem.

A lot is being done to address the problems but it takes a little time. However, what Mr Walker, perhaps unwittingly, does reveal is that we do have an open society here in Kenya in which views are expressed in all sections of the community. If that message comes through his writings he might even have done us a favour.

Yours etc.,
RICHARD LEAKEY,
Director,
Kenya Wildlife Service,
PO Box 40241,
Nairobi,<br



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 20: His Excellency Mr Amanaga Tolofua was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for Western Samoa in London.

Mr Roger Tomkys (Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Sir Terence Clark (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Muscat) was received by The Queen when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Lady Clark was also received by The Queen.

Mr Michael Daly (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at La Paz) and Mrs Daly were received by The Queen.

Mr John Floyd was received by The Queen when Her Majesty decorated him with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the British Petroleum Oilfield at Wytch Farm, Dorset and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Dorset (The Lord Digby).

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, has visited the Museum of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, Eastbourne, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex (Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson).

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

Today the Duke of York took the Salute at The Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London.

His Royal Highness was received by Rear Admiral Douglas Dow.

Captain Neil Blair, RN and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

The Prince Edward today visited Hewlett Packard Limited at 9 Bridewell Place, London, ECA.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

The Prince Edward, heir apparent of The Duke of Edinburgh, attended this evening another of a reception at Millwater Hotel, Newbury followed by a charity film premiere of *Gremlins II* at the Cannon Cinema, Newbury in aid of the Award Scheme. His Royal Highness subsequently attended a buffet supper at Millwater Hotel.

Prince Edward was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Vice-Lord Lieutenant (Captain the Honourable Nicholas Beaumont).

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

Today The Princess Royal visited Leicestershire and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Leicestershire (T. G. M. Brooks, Esq).

Marriages

Mr R.A. Fitzalan Howard and Miss J.N. Johnson

The marriage took place yesterday at St Mary's, Denham Village, Buckinghamshire, of Mr Richard Andrew Fitzalan Howard, son of Lord and Lady Michael Fitzalan Howard, to Miss Josephine Nina Johnson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Johnson, of the Austin Hills and Dunn, Waller, Maxwell, Sturt, OSB, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by William Hall, Lord Mairtravers, Heloise Goetz, Olivia McAlpine, Fiona Bickmore, Flora Fitzalan Howard and Countess Christiansen Wedell. The Earl of Arundel and Surrey was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr J.P. Wrigley and Lady Bambury

The marriage took place in London on Thursday, July 19, 1990, between Mr John Patrick Wrigley, of Delbury Hall, Craven Arms, Shropshire, and Lucinda Elizabeth Scarlett, Lady Bambury, daughter of Mr John Treherne and the Hon. Lady Brinckman, of Gloucestershire.

Mr H.J. Redhead and Miss S.C. Summers

The marriage took place yesterday at Holy Trinity,

Her Royal Highness, President, British Clothing and Clothing Export Council, visited the Albany Belt Company, Melton Mowbray and the Mensley Group Limited, System.

In the afternoon The Princess Royal opened the World Convention of the Association Internationale des Ecoles Supérieures d'Education Physique (AIESEP), at Loughborough University.

Her Royal Highness was attended by Mrs Caroline Wallace.

CLARENCE HOUSE

July 20: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Anglian Regiment, this afternoon opened the Royal Museum of the Royal Norfolk Regiment in Norwich.

The Dowager Viscountess Hambleden and Major Sir Ralph Austruher, Bt were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

July 20: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, received members of the Blackburn Partnership.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Council in the Community, received Sir Hector Laing, Mr Graham Ross, Mr John Moorhouse, Mr John Thompson and Mr Stephen O'Brien.

The Prince of Wales held a meeting to discuss The Prince of Wales's Award for Innovation.

His Royal Highness gave a lunch for Mr Michael Portillo, MP (Minister of State Department of Transport, Minister for Public Transport), Sir Hector Laing and Mr Stephen O'Brien.

YORK HOUSE

July 20: The Duke of Kent, Patron of the Trinity College of Music, today attended Presentation Day at the Wigmore Hall, London W1.

Mr Andrew Palmer was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, President of the King's Lynn Festival of the Music and the Arts, this evening attended the Opening Concert of the 40th Festival at St Nicholas' Church, King's Lynn, Norfolk, and was received on arrival by Mr Jonathan Peel (Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk).

Captain the Hon Christopher Knollys was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Cheltenham, this morning presided at Ceremonies for the Conferment of Degrees at the University of Leeds.

Mr Peter Wilson-Sirwell was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

July 20: Princess Alexandra was present today at the opening of the redesigned Dilkes Bookstore, incorporating Mowbray's Store, 28 Margaret Street, London W1.

Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, accompanied by Sir Angus Ogivly, this evening took the Salute at the evening Performance of The Royal Tournament at Earls Court.

OBITUARIES

REAR-ADMIRAL 'TONY' PUGSLEY

Rear-Admiral A. F. (Tony) Pugsley, CB, DSO and two Bars, who has died, aged 88, at his home in Somerset, was the naval assault force commander at Westkapelle, on the Dutch Island of Walcheren, in 1944. He was born on December 7, 1901.

MUCH was at stake on November 1, 1944, when "Tony" Pugsley and his Force T moved in to the Dutch coast to land No 4 Special Service Brigade's three Royal Marine Commando units on the island of Walcheren. The battle which ensued needs to be seen against the background of the strategic situation in north-west Europe in the autumn of 1944. The capture of Antwerp by the British in September had opened up a prospect bright with promise. Only scattered German forces were to be found between the city and the German industrial heartland of the Ruhr, barely 100 miles away — indeed, Hitler, at his headquarters far away on the eastern front, was thrown into a panic. Antwerp provided a major port to supply the allied advance which was still relying for its fuel and ammunition on the daily lengthening lines of communication with the Normandy beachhead.

But in the ensuing weeks possession of Antwerp began to reveal itself as something from which no actual benefit beyond the psychological could be extracted. While strong German forces still held Walcheren, the enemy commanded the Scheldt and blocked access to the port. It remained blocked throughout the tragically abortive Arnhem operation. If the Royal Marine commandos could seize Walcheren they could open the Scheldt and break this deadlock.

Walcheren, however, had a strong garrison and heavy fortifications besides terrible firepower. At Westkapelle, to seaward, no fewer than 14 batteries, with guns of calibres ranging from 70mm to



200mm, were in position to blow out of the water any minesweeping force that might have been deployed to clear the Scheldt of German mines. Those same batteries promised the Pugsley's Force T and the British commandos a fiercely contested landing.

In the event, the heroic efforts of the naval support staff silenced the shore batteries, though at considerable cost to themselves, and enabled the special services troops to get ashore with comparatively light casualties. The success of the landings, and the courageous close support provided both during the assault and afterwards, led to Pugsley, still a junior Captain, being appointed CB, a rare distinction at that rank. The role played by the navy, on that day, was not lost on the

commandos. After the operation the commanders and men of the special services brigade expressed their sincere hope that Force T would be on hand again if they had to undertake a similar operation. After the epic of Walcheren, Pugsley and Force T continued to play a vital role on the left flank of the British and Canadian armies, using the waterways of the Low Countries to carry out numerous raids on enemy held territory, until the end of the war in Europe.

Pugsley had already served as a destroyer captain, commanding an assault group at Juno beach on and after D-Day, and as captain of patrols in the Channel, where he had been responsible for thwarting the enemy's attempts to disrupt the build-up of the Normandy beachhead. In five

years, which took him from the 2nd battle of Narvik and the evacuation at Dunkirk to the Indian Ocean, he had not only his three DSOs (no mean tally for a navy man) but the Greek War Cross (3rd class) and was three times mentioned in despatches.

Son of a west country solicitor, Anthony Follett Pugsley was born at Tiverton, Devon. He was educated at the naval colleges Osborne and Dartmouth, and first went to sea in May 1918 as a midshipman in HMS *Waspie*. While serving as first lieutenant of the gunboat *Widgeon*, on the upper Yangtze in the 1920s, he was an Admiralty commendation for his calmness and decisiveness when relieving a British cantonment from a stone-throwing Chinese mob.

After the war in Europe was over, Pugsley became Captain (D) 19th destroyer flotilla, which consisted of the first eight battle-class destroyers — magnificent, modern vessels which were to see long service. He was in the act of taking half his ships to join in the final fight to beat the Japanese when Japan surrendered.

From 1951 to 1953 he was flag officer, Malayan area, and naval adviser in the Malayan emergency to General Sir Gerald Templer, who was directing operations during the jungle struggle against communist insurgents.

In retirement Pugsley

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Pugsley married, in 1931, Barbara Syam Shaw, daughter of the artist; they were married for 58 years. She died nine months ago, and he is survived by a son, now a retired naval officer.

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ROLAND de MARGERIE

Roland Jacquin de Margerie, who was France's ambassador to Bonn at the time of the historic 1963 reconciliation with Germany personified by Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer, died on July 13 at the age of 91. He was born on May 6, 1899.

ROLAND de Margerie came from one of France's most distinguished diplomatic families, which has given its services to the French state for the past two centuries. Like his father, Pierre de Margerie, former ambassador to London and Washington, he was raised to the title of *Ambassadeur de France*, an exceptional honour. The nephew of Edmond de Rosnay, the creator of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, brother-in-law of Alfred Fabre-Luce, one of France's leading bankers, and his son, Emmanuel de Margerie, former ambassador to London and Washington, he was a man of wide culture, wit and great integrity as well as being a brilliant, hard working diplomat whose views were always listened to and respected. Small, upright and thin, with a penetrating gaze behind his round glasses, he was found intimidating by many.

In 1941, de Gaulle, now

so far as to send de

Margerie a telegram inviting

him to join him in London.

"Venez, mon ami," the telegram ended, an almost unparalleled gesture from such a man. But de Margerie never replied. Notwithstanding the rebuff, de Gaulle did not hesitate to choose him for the highly sensitive post of France's ambassador to Bonn in 1962, when de Gaulle and Adenauer were seeking to heal the wounds of the war and to bring their two countries closer together. De Margerie was influential in helping to draw up the Franco-German treaty, signed by the two leaders in 1963, forming the basis of the historic Paris-Bonn axis which was to prove the leading force in the construction of Europe right up to the present time.

The Span posting marked

the culmination of a post-war career which had seen de

Margerie first as chargé d'affaires in Peking, then as director of the political department at the Quai d'Orsay, where he played an important role in the West's efforts to stop Soviet expansionism, before

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

Why do you look at the spectre in your brother's eye but pay no attention to the log in St. Luke 6: 41 G.N.B.

BIRTHS

ALLEN - On July 15th, in Amersham, a son, one-month-old, Rupert, and a daughter, Emma Kathleen, to Timothy.

BARLAS - On July 15th 1990, at Aberdeen University Hospital, to Victoria Forbes and Alasdair, a son, Harry Douglas William (Harry).

CROWNHURST - On July 17th, to Kathie (nee Bracken) and Derek, a son, Jamie Henry (Fernie).

CURSON - On July 20th 1990, to Kathie (nee Bracken) and Derek, a son, Jamie Henry (Fernie).

CUNNINGHAM - On July 17th, 1990, to Anne and John, a beautiful daughter, Samia.

DAVISON - On July 17th, 1990, to Anne and John, a beautiful daughter, Samia.

DAWSON - On July 17th, to Josephine (nee Heaton) and James, a daughter, Georgina, a sister for Harriet.

ELWELM - On July 19th, to Charles and Justin, a daughter, Charlotte Mary.

FAULKNER - On Wednesday July 18th, to Judith (nee Lawler) and her daughter, a daughter, Katherine Audrey.

HEAD - On July 18th, to Julia (nee Marwood) and Ian, a daughter, Sophie Louise, a sister for Henry.

SANDFORD-REICHARDSON - On July 18th, to Nicola and Martin, a beautiful daughter, Elizabeth Ann.

SOMA - On July 20th, to Graham and Frances (nee Hock) and their daughter, Emily Patricia (nee Schmid) for Matthew and Nicholas.

SMITHBANK - On July 12th, in Bridgeton, Glasgow, a daughter, Eleanor Rose.

WEBS - On July 19th, at Gaudeolare, Paris, to Beatrice and Andrew, a son, Thomas.

WRIGHT - On July 14th 1990, to Pamela and Christopher, a daughter, Emma Grace (Haley), a son for William.

MARRIAGES

HOLME-ASTORGANO - On July 19th at Christ Church, Balaclava, a son, one-month-old, of The Rev G. & Mrs D. and Annabel Mario, second daughter of Mr & Mrs D. Adelmo.

PASOLINI-EVANS - On July 19th, at Gillingham, Kent, a son, Mark Pasolini, son of Mr & Mrs T. Pasolini, of Welwyn, Herts, & Amanda Evans, daughter of Mr & Mrs G. Evans, and the late Mr P. Evans, of Pontefract, Yorkshire.

DEATHS

COUPLAND - On July 13th 1990, suddenly at the Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford, Lt. Col. John Mackintosh Coupland, 81, of Lymington, Brixton, son, son of Mrs. Mary and William Coupland, Belvoir House, of Lymington, Hampshire, father of John, of Montreal, and Gillian (Mrs. Peter Pichot), of Vancouver, Ontario, Canada, Victoria and dear brother of Mary (Lassus) and the late Betty, A long-time member of the Life and Master of St Paul's Lodge - Montreal, Canada Lodge - London and the Alpine Lodge - Argyll and Bute Lodge, Lt. Col. Coupland served with the Royal Montreal Regiment during World War II and later with the Canadian Grenadier Guards. A private family service was held on July 18th in Guildford. In lieu of flowers, donations if desired to The Red Cross or The Royal Marsden Hospital, 35th Floor, Freeports Funeral Service, Charing Cross Road, May Road, Guildford, which would be appreciated by the family.

BROOKSHAW - On Friday July 20th, aged 32, suddenly in hospital, Alan Rupert, RTR, brother of Phillip and June and brother of Phillip and Oliver. Independent in spirit, he fought to the end. Funeral Service at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Broad Street, Buckingham, Tuesday July 24th at 2.45 pm, followed by a private cremation. Friends will be welcome at the Old House Farm, Farnham, flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund or to the Royal Tank Regiment Benevolent Fund.

DICKSON - On July 15th, at Field House, Croydon, Graeme Dickson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John and Barbara Dickson, husband of Jane, Susan, David, Catherine, William and grandfather. Private funeral. No flowers, but donations to the Earl Haig Fund (Scotland). A Thanksgiving Service will be held later.

GAWTHORPE - On July 19th, at Cloughmore, Cumbria, Mr. and Mrs. John and Barbara Dickson, husband of Jane, Susan, David, Catherine, William and grandfather. Private funeral. No flowers, but donations to the Earl Haig Fund (Scotland). A Thanksgiving Service will be held later.

HAZELL - The Funeral Service for Margaret Jackson, 81, will be held at the Crematorium, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Friday July 20th at 2.30 pm. Donations to the Sargeant's Fund, 40 Church Street, Ashton, by noon on Friday.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BASLEY - Jonathan James, 82, RICS, tragically killed 22/7/83 aged 23, constantly in our thoughts.

DEPARTMENT - In memory of Ray on his birthday, the happy highways where I can never come again.

WILLIS - Martin, in fond memory. Still missed by all who knew and loved him. E. E. and R.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PEPPER - George Frances Pepper and her family would like to thank their kind friends and well-wishers for goodwill towards them in their bereavement, also for the donations received for the British Heart Foundation.

MORT - On Wednesday July 18th 1990, peacefully at St George's Hospital, London, after a courageous fight against a rare illness. He was a Superintendent of the Elsternwick Fire Department, and grandfather of Gwilym Jones and Son, Croydon, 1st et al.

WILLIAMS - Marian, in fond memory. Still missed by all who knew and loved him. E. E. and R.

WILLIAMS - On July 18th, peacefully at home in Cumbria, Mary 'Molly' (nee Remond), beloved wife of Ian Murray and loving mother of Carl, John, Bruce and John. A woman of outstanding courage and selflessness.

PARKES - On July 17th, peacefully at home in Prudhoe, Northumberland, C.B.E., aged 85, dear wife of Barbara and grandmothers of William and Graham and grandmother of William and Edward. Funeral at St Cuthbert's Church, Mount Park Road, Ealing, W5, on Wednesday July 24th at 11.30 am. Interment at St. John's Cemetery, Prudhoe. Family flowers only, but if desired, donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

THOMPSON - On July 10th, in Devon, James, adored son of Frederick and Ursula (Blyth) and brother of Duncan. Tel: 081 862 6474.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOMAS - From good honour, 21 years old, would like to attend his wedding for 3 months in the UK. Tel: 081 862 6474.

PLUMS - On July 17th, Charles Theodore, aged 64, died suddenly at his home in E. Truro. He died in his home for many years. Sadly missed by his wife, Peggy, his daughter, Joanne and Valerie, his son, his grandchildren and his recent great-grandchildren, still in Croydon.

SPENSER - On July 18th, peacefully after a long illness, Dorothy, wife of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Spender, of Croydon, Surrey.

AWWA - We sincerely thank the many individuals who have given so generously to our appeal for the victims of the recent flooding in the Shropshire area.

BLAISDELL - Congress on pending legislation. Please phone 08447 612 612 or 081 862 6474.

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STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRONKORST - On July 18th, peacefully in hospital, Alan George, of West Merton. Funeral Service at St George's Church, West Merton, on Thursday July 26th at 1.45 pm, followed by cremation. Donations for The British Heart Foundation may be given to W.H. Shepard Funeral Directors, 100 High Street, Colchester, Tel: (0206) 572300.

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A marathon life with never a meal to fix

Home from home: Sir James Savile

JIMMY, now Sir James, Savile has seven residences—nine, if you count his two caravans. But, he says: "I haven't got any homes, and I'm quite happy without them. I'm the archetypal single fellow."

He has cleaners and housekeepers, however, in six of his seven residences. "They are all immaculate and neat and clean," he says. "They're not grimy bachelor pads."

He thinks of them merely as "beds sit in convenient places", and says that he hasn't slept in the same bed three nights running in 30 years. He certainly moves about a lot—running marathons (he has run more than 170 and his biggest single sponsorship was the £100,000 he raised for the British Heart Foundation last year, by completing the London Marathon), or training, or driving his Rolls-Royce between Leeds (where he was born, and owns a three-bedroomed flat), Scarborough (where he owns another three-bedroomed flat), Peterborough (where he owns a two-

bedroomed flat), Bournemouth (where he owns another two-bedroomed flat), Regent's Park (where he owns a studio flat) Broadmoor Hospital (where he keeps a room), Stoke Mandeville Hospital (where he has had the same room for 23 years), and his two 36ft caravans, which are permanently parked in Dorset and Devon and are available free for holidays for patients and their families from the hospitals where he works as a "volunteer helper".

"To say 'Here is a man with seven homes', sounds as if you're acquisitive," he says, "but it is much more convenient to have a bed in a flat than to use a hotel. And if two of them are hospital beds I can't be very fussy, can I?" His collection of residences is justified, he feels, by a seven-day working week that is never the same two weeks in a row. "I've got beds in Leeds because I work at Leeds Infirmary. I've got beds in Scarborough because that is my favourite coastal resort. Then I got a bed surrounded by a flat in Peterborough because I'm a

ASADOUR GUZELIAN

consultant for Thomas Cook, the travel people, who have their headquarters there.

"I have a place in Regent's Park for when I'm recording *Jim'll Fix It*, and the beauty of the London place is that it has a garage big enough to take a Rolls-Royce—and that's more of a luxury in London than a bed. Then I have a typical nurses' home room at Stoke Mandeville, which the hospital gave me because they felt I could be useful to them. It was a very good business move, seeing I have just given them a magnetic resonance imaging machine worth £1.2 million. In Broadmoor I have a room above my office, so I can work day and night, and in Bournemouth there is a flat I bought when my mother was alive, and I was looking for a place for her to spend the winter."

He has no pets or pot plants to tie him down and carries his "registered office" in a briefcase. "I have no secretary and no driver. My mail is answered at each place it comes to, but nothing comes to my private addresses. Each place contains all the basic essentials I need."

Basic essentials for the flamboyant disc jockey, television personality and fund-raiser may include lamé tracksuits, running shoes, cigars and flashy jewellery, but they most emphatically do not include anything to cook with. Hospital cooking suits him just fine, as does almost any cooking someone else has done for him, he says. "The people who came to put in the kitchen at Leeds couldn't believe it when I asked them to design it without an oven," he says. "They said, 'What if you want to sell it?' He likens food to money: "It's not important as long as there is plenty of it around."

The newly knighted Sir James ("I still can't get used to it") is more aware than most of the silver linings that can lurk in insidious-looking clouds. An accident during his early career as a miner left him with a spinal injury that might have crippled him for life, yet led to his first work as a disc jockey, and his lengthy association with the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, for which he has so far raised £10 million.

He keeps his bicycle in the 12ft by 8ft room in Stoke Mandeville. There is a sink, he has his own private bathroom in the corridor outside, and the room is served by three telephones but it seems a spartan and soulless existence.

Sir James vehemently disagrees. "Hospitals are a 24-hour club," he says. "Discos close, but in hospitals there is always somebody awake."

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Not cooking: Sir James Savile in the hobless kitchen of his Leeds flat



Concentration: Alan Stockwell, a golfer turned croquet addict, says the tactics demand physical skill and brain-power

Going through the hoops

Croquet is booming, with more than 350,000

players in Britain. Geraldine Ranson reports

on moves to make it big on the box as well

From the moment Alan Stockwell first handled a croquet mallet he never played golf again. His wife had seen a poster advertising a course of six lessons and he had gone along half-heartedly, thinking it would be a nice sport for her to take up, leaving him free to enjoy his golf. By the end of the initial tuition he was hooked—and found himself secretary of the newly formed Vine Road Croquet Club in Barnes, west London.

Croquet is booming. Of the 151 clubs registered with the Croquet Association, 66 have opened since 1985. More than 350,000 people play regularly in the season between April and October, and every year there are more recruits.

Vine Road is about a mile from both Hurlingham and Roehampton, the meccas of association croquet, but the ethos of this small club is quite different.

Squeezed between two busy railway lines, it was once a bowling green, but the lawns have been re-marked to make four "short lawns" for croquet. The flower beds, neat privet hedges and smooth turf are maintained by the borough of Richmond, and the 30 members pay a subscription of £30 per season.

Mr Stockwell's first six lessons were at the end of the summer of 1987 and he spent the winter reading everything he could about

association croquet. The game bears as much resemblance to the one people play in the back garden as clock golf to a round on an 18-hole course. It is a game as much of tactics as of physical skill, like a mix of chess and snooker, played on a lawn twice the size of a tennis court. Each player or team has two balls, traditionally either black and blue, or red and yellow, allowing many more possibilities of roqueing opponents' balls off course. The tactics become so complicated that once a player has mastered them he or she moves into another league.

By the spring of 1988 Mr Stockwell was keen to put the theory he had learnt during the winter into practice. A retired fire brigade officer, now aged 57, he slipped away to the club whenever he could and, after a few weeks, practice and theory began to come together. He entered the National Garden Croquet Classic and won the area final that year.

Mr Stockwell once had a golf handicap of ten and had played regularly for more than 25 years. "With golf," he says, "you smash it up the middle and then putt. You spend your life trying to get it right." For a man who loves crosswords, croquet has a lot to offer: "It takes in everything—physical ability, my brain is ticking over and I'm out in the fresh air. In the fire brigade I played every sport available, but I'm captivated by croquet."

His enthusiasm proved infectious in the club. By the summer of 1989, "we'd got the bit between our teeth" and entered the south-eastern league [the Croquet Federation runs league games throughout Britain]. We won the

trophy, to be played in September at Roehampton.

However, Möet et Chandon has withdrawn its croquet sponsorship. As the company's promotions director, Nancy Jarrett, arrived for a competition it began to rain and to her horror they donned their sailing gear and lay down in the puddles to get the shot right. "It was all very sporting but not quite the champagne image."

Television coverage has been tried but the 2½yd by 2½yd court is too big, close-up shots out of context become meaningless, and an overall view loses the balls. The Croquet Association is considering producing new rules for a half-sized game for television.

This may well suit Mr Stockwell and his members, whose short lawns measure only 2½yd by 10yd and put beginners at a disadvantage when playing a match on a full-sized lawn. He hopes to find a redundant football pitch which could be converted into full-sized lawns.

Croquet is played by equal numbers of men and women, although Mr Stockwell acknowledges that women's domestic commitments often put them at a disadvantage. When companies play at Vine Road it is assumed to see young men who have played at college, sometimes explaining to older members of the board that the rules no longer permit them to put a foot on the ball.

With the Vine Road team, Mr Stockwell will play a demonstration match between 2pm and 5pm on Saturday July 28 at the Orleans Gallery in Twickenham. There will be a chance for spectators to play afterwards.

GERALDINE RANSON

• More information from Brian Macmillan, administration secretary, the Croquet Association, Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6. © Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

Help: Candy Bowman, home help

Many hands, lighter work

CANDY Bowman dreamt of

someone who would take the drudgery out of life. "It was so difficult to keep a home going, clothes clean, do errands and wait for workmen without dropping either an aspect of your job or social life," she says. So in 1986 she started Home Matters, a business that would do for others what she longed to have done for herself.

Ms Bowman, aged 31, employs 53 regular staff including cleaners,

plumbers and electricians. The agency even has an interior decorator on call, and can provide temporary childcare. It also offers a variety of other services—from queuing for your passport to buying your husband's birthday present, walking the dog, watering the plants and dealing with the drycleaning. But by far the most popular are those which involve dealing with removal men, builders and decorators. "We only use

only people we can trust," Ms Bowman says, "and they are always referred by someone we know."

So far her team has converted bathrooms, re-decorated bedrooms and dealt with flooded basements flats, including working out the insurance claim and having a new carpet fitted.

The agency charges for the services of the professionals and adds a service charge of about £10 an hour. "It may only take an hour of our time—or it may take more," Ms Bowman says, "but we will always try to keep our time to a minimum."

You have to be a subscriber before you can call on the services of Home Matters. Subscriptions can be taken out for three months at £40, six months at £80 or 12 months at £20.

If you call them for what they term "clawing"—doubling for you while waiting in for a delivery or for a repairman to call—they will advise you to get your money's worth by asking them to clean out the fridge or do the washing at the same time.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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THIS WEEKEND

• Annual London international festival of street entertainers: Non-stop entertainment with acrobats, clowns, comedians, dancers, jugglers and unicyclists, mime artists, magicians, and poets, puppets and theatre groups. Street entertainer of the year awards tomorrow in the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, 7pm.

West Soho, Carnaby and other pedestrian streets, London W1. Today, tomorrow 11am to late afternoon. Free. Tickets for awards

10km run round the perimeter of Battersea Park from 10.30am, family fun run 3pm. The 26km bike ride leaves at noon. Live jazz. Also crafts, fumoir and ethnic food stalls.

Battersea Park. Tomorrow. Registration in the park. Further information (081-746 0053 or 0836 769368).

NEXT WEEK

• Plymouth navy days: Ship and naval base open to the public. HMS Naval Base, Plymouth, Devon. (0732 535914). Fri-Sun 9.30am-6pm. Adult £3, child £1.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Help: Candy Bowman (left) and some of her team of workers

Events in town

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THIS WEEKEND

A dirty war out on the streets

As the dog population rises, how are we coping with the mess they leave behind?

THE scene was the tiny parish hall of a pretty village in the heart of rural Gloucestershire. A parish meeting was about to begin and, anticipating the usual interest in parish matters, the clerk had set out half a dozen chairs.

When about 50 villagers turned up engaged in behaviour more common on football terraces than in a parish hall, only one person present was prepared. The guest speaker, Sue Bell, the senior dog warden at nearby Tewkesbury, appreciates the high passions aroused by the main subject on the agenda: dog fouling.

Even normally placid citizens are driven to extremes over the subject, it seems. "Temper gets excessively frayed," says Mrs Bell, who is chairman of the National Dog Wardens' Association. "I have chaired three very large meetings where people have had to be physically restrained. There are never neutral people at dog talks. You get the anti-dog lobby and the good dog owners who are violently opposed, restrictions because they look after their dogs. But casual dog owners who allow their dogs to foul all over the place don't turn up."

So great is public outrage that a growing number of local authorities are being forced to take action. The result is a new breed of dog warden, whose duties include preventing public areas disappearing beneath piles of dog excrement. With an estimated 7,300,000 dogs in the country, this is clearly not a matter to be taken lightly.

"It is a big problem," says Mrs Bell, aged 42, who estimates that 50 per cent of her work is concerned with dog fouling. "The dog population is on the increase and the areas where they can be exercised are becoming fewer. At the same time, more estates are being constructed with green areas which end up being used as dog toilets." Dog excreta may contain eggs of the toxocara canis worm which, when ingested by humans, can result in ailments ranging from general malaise to lung infections or blindness.

Existing by-laws make it an offence to allow dogs to foul most footpaths but it is up to local authorities to enforce the legislation. Under the proposed Environmental Protection Bill, due to come into effect later this year, they will be given statutory responsibility to keep their public areas clean of litter — including dog mess.

About half of Britain's 421 local authorities already employ dog wardens, all with varying powers, pay and conditions. One of the most progressive is Westminster City Council which this week successfully prosecuted a dog owner under a recently-introduced Removal of Canine Faeces by-law, which demands that owners clear up after their dogs.

In his defence the accused dog-owner, Souter Harris, a television



Cleaning up in Wibsey park

advertising producer, claimed that his bull-terrier was suffering from a stomach upset and that the pooper scooper proffered by the council's "multi-purpose inspector" who witnessed the event was therefore unsuitable. Counsel for the council responded by producing a snapshot of the evidence, showing it to be a healthy and solid example of its kind. Mr Harris was fined £20, a derisory sum according to Donna Clarke, policy assistant to the chairman of Westminster's environment committee. The maximum fine for the offence is £100.

Westminster's inspectors are responsible for enforcing legislation on the council's 220 miles of pavement, including illegal street trading and the litter and dog fouling laws. There are 60 inspectors, 10 of them in the Zip team (Zone Improvement Patrol). They carry out "blitzes" on specific areas such as St John's Wood, where dog fouling is a particular problem. A recent stakeout by inspectors in Alma Square resulted in three dog owners being accused and offered pooper scoopers. All of whom took them and cleaned up the dog mess. Since the by-law was introduced in February 1989, 1,000 dog owners have been approached by the Zip team and all, apart from Mr Harris, obediently cleaned up the excreta or kicked it into the gutter, which is allowed.

As well as selling disposable cardboard pooper scoopers (ten for £1), advising owners not to kiss their dogs and running a dog owners' club, Westminster also assures its dog owners that "almost any dog (adult or puppy) can be trained to use the toilet".

The city of Bradford, which regards itself as being at the forefront of the campaign to clean up the problem, has had dog wardens since 1978 and currently has a team of five to sort out the problems of the 50,000 dogs in the area. The senior warden, Terry Singh, aged 37, believes that the council's success in promoting public awareness can be measured by the fact that they now get more than 5,600 complaints a year compared with 775 in 1978. The council has just bought 2,000 biodegradable plastic pooper scoopers complete with "hygienic" gloves to be handed out to the public.

While some parks already provide special areas of sand to be used as dog lavatories, Wibsey Park in Bradford has just completed a 12-month pilot scheme to encourage dog owners to scoop up their dogs' dirt and put it in the bins provided. The result has been a 90 per cent improvement.

Barnie Tinker, Bradford's senior manager of outdoor amenities, estimates that the scheme has reduced dog fouling in the park by about 90 per cent.

SALLY BROMPTON

WEEKending

We have been on first name terms from the start. "Hi. I'm Archie; this is my wife Jane, and that's our baby Matilda." Jane is brandishing the pink bundle that is the reason they have been on our doorstep for the past four weekends. They need a bigger house and, God willing, ours is the bigger house they need.

We have been trying to move for more than two years. No lazy summer Sundays fished out in the garden for us. We spend our weekends scrubbing and wiping and tidying and concealing so people can whisk around our house in ten minutes flat and decide it is not what they want. In our household they are known as Wofers because they are a Waste Of Effing Time.

When we began, estate agencies throbbed with energy and optimism. Now it must be like working in an Albanian department store, only not so devil-may-care. Those bullish young negotiators who roared up in bright red Porsches are now twichy old men wearing last year's Next. The two who came to value our place shuffled around gloomily. They would have hit the right note if there had been a massacre in the family, but as it was we could have done with a bit more passion. "Better make a list of what's on the inside," said one to the other. "because sure as eggs we won't sell it on the outside."

I have been walking around the outside of our house ever since, wondering what he meant. Is there something I missed? A six-lane motorway? Killer sharks? However, it is not all doom and despondency. We are getting to know Archie and Jane quite well. They are a sweet, warm, hard-working couple with a beautiful baby, which is just as well because no weekend goes by without them taking one more look at our Hand-Crafted Kitchen or Extremely Peaceful Walled Garden. Impulsive buyers they are not. On their third visit, they brought Archie's mother, Jane's father, and it was time to meet Jane's father.

JULIE WELCH



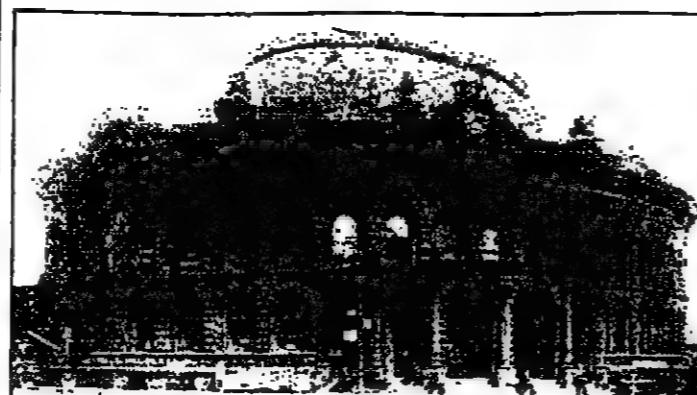
"You'd think they were marrying into our family, not buying our flapping house," I observed to a friend. She was unimpressed. "Only four visits?" she said dismissively. "Can't be very interested. We looked round our house ten times before we decided we couldn't live without it." Ten times? Which relation will Archie and Jane be bringing to meet us by then — the long-lost great-uncle believed to have gone down with the Titanic? The trouble is, buyers are no longer the suckers they were. When I think of the power I had when I was selling my little flat in south London six years ago, one couple was so desperate they dropped a note through the door. "We can't afford your asking price but we love your house and we would really look after it." Ho, ho, ho, you would, would you? Listen, I don't much care if people use the Original Victorian Shutters for firewood and hold satanic ceremonies in the living-room, as long as the money is right.

These days buyers are cynics. Forget all those little stratagems you're told to get up to such as filling the house with the smell of freshly ground coffee or newly baked bread. "Oh, you read that article too, did you?" they say, homing in on the damp patch under the front window as if there were a big arrow over it saying: "Knock £10,000 off the asking price here."

If only our house did smell of

Sir John would have been proud

ASADOUR GHUZELIAN



Pomp and circumstance: the exchange as it was in the affluent 1920s

Changing face

By the early 1980s, Leeds Corn Exchange, once admired by Sir John Betjeman, and a place of pilgrimage for students of architecture from around the globe, was nearing the terminal stages of decay. The Grade I listed building had to suffer the indignity of having snow swept from its once-bustling trading floor, and a nightclub had been installed in its basement. The proud commercial hub of the city had become an embarrassment. Like much of the third largest city in England it survived intact the assault of the Luftwaffe, only to be foreclosed by postwar planners and allowed to run into genteel decline in the Sixties. Leeds' claim to be "the motorway city of the Seventies" seemed but the hollow boast of an over-enthusiastic public relations initiative.

All this is now firmly in the past. In the Eighties Leeds emerged with one of the highest growth rates in the country. "We weathered the recession and are now on the up, but what we have lacked are the shops and entertainment to match our prosperity," said a spokesman for Leeds' Labour-controlled city council.

Four years ago the potential for the vast amphitheatre of a building at the bottom of Duncan Street was recognised by David Houghton, a chartered surveyor by training who admits to getting "a real thrill" out of seeing neglected buildings brought back to life. Speciality Shops, the company of which he is chairman, runs five shopping centres in locations far apart as Edinburgh and Maidstone, the majority based around old buildings.

Mr Taylor's first encounter with the residents of the Corn Exchange occupants was not encouraging. He was refused entry to the nightclub on the grounds that he was overdressed. The city fathers were more welcoming and Speciality Shops now has a 125-year lease from the council on what it hopes will become the focal point of a revitalised city centre. "You can create a satisfactory shopping centre in a new building, but it is more difficult to create a shopping and entertainment centre, which is what we had in mind for the Corn Exchange. With an established building there is a greater degree of acceptance," he maintains.

Transforming the Corn Exchange has meant overcoming a unique set of problems. The building was designed by local architect Cuthbert Brodrick and opened in 1862. The central hall is 76ft high and 170ft long. The elliptical dome with which it is crowned was designed to allow light, as Sir John Betjeman first pointed out, to enter both from

above and from the north, so that it was diffused, and enabled the corn to be examined without shadows. English Heritage took an interest in every stage of the £4 million restoration.

Protracted negotiations were necessary before London architects William Alsop and John Lyall were permitted to remove a section of the trading floor to open up the basement, and to introduce two new staircases leading to the building's internal balcony which had once housed merchants offices.

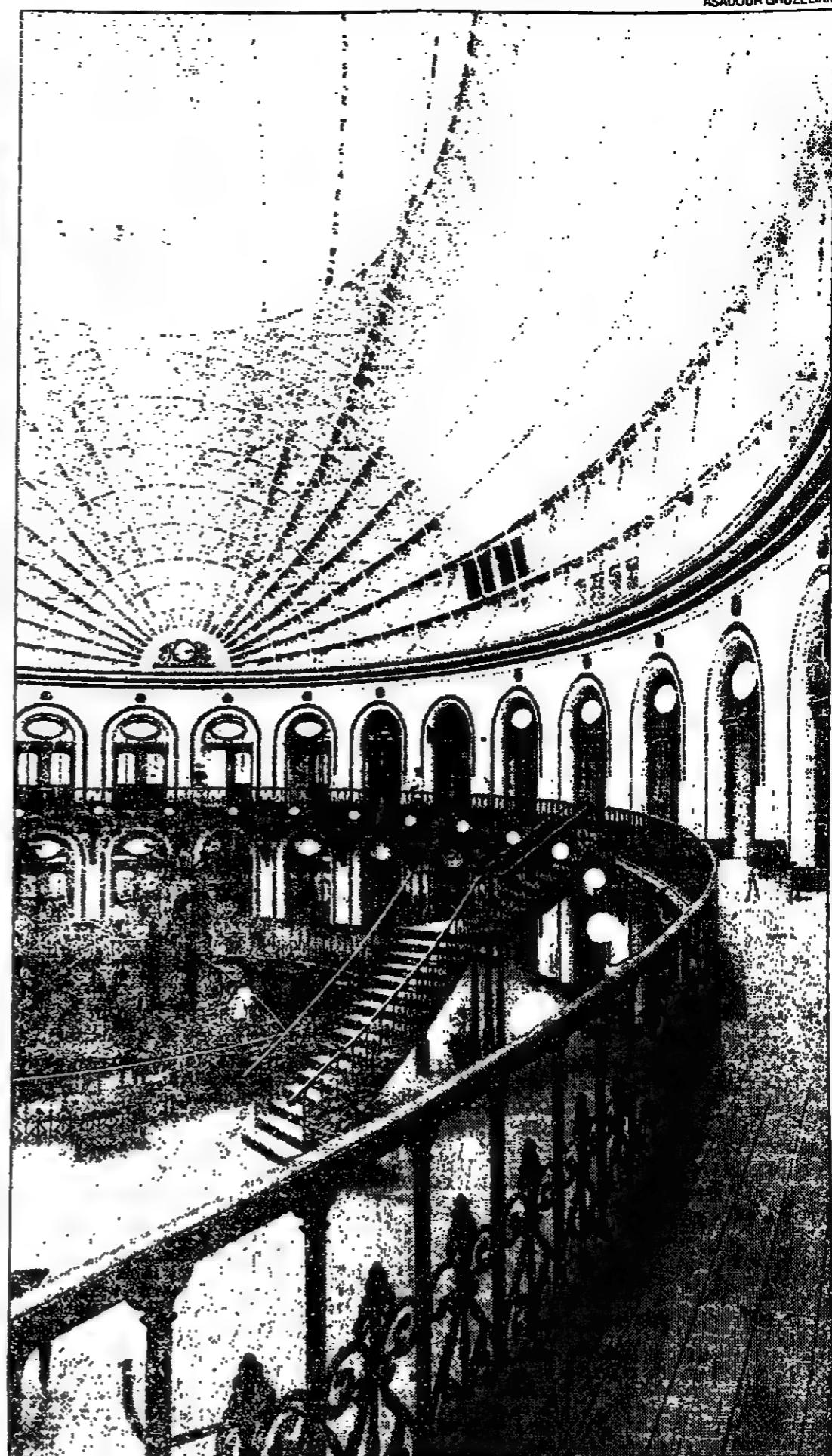
Then there were the corn traders themselves. Their right to hold a market every Tuesday is enshrined in complex by-laws (the Corn Exchange must be the only shopping centre in Britain where, technically at least, shoppers are not permitted to loiter). Even now a section of the hall is cleared once a week so that corn trading can take place.

The overall intention of the Speciality Shops scheme, of which the Corn Exchange is stage one, is to shift the whole emphasis of the city further south. Eventually a new footbridge will be built across the nearby River Aire and a five acre site, including the 18th century White Cloth Hall, will be renovated to include not only shops, but offices and studios.

With low rents — one-third the cost per square foot of the high street stores 50 yards away — the development is designed to attract small but growing businesses. Following talks with a local art college, a number of units have already been allocated to young designers and a craftsman co-operative is to take up residence.

Although the official opening is not until October, some three-quarters of the 35 units have already been let. A key element of Mr Houghton's strategy is to establish eating places early, in order to draw in shoppers. With potted palms and ample foliage it is hoped that the effect will be that of a 19th century conservatory.

ROBERT DUNKLEY



Reborn from the ashes: after its £4 million restoration, the Leeds Corn Exchange is ready for business

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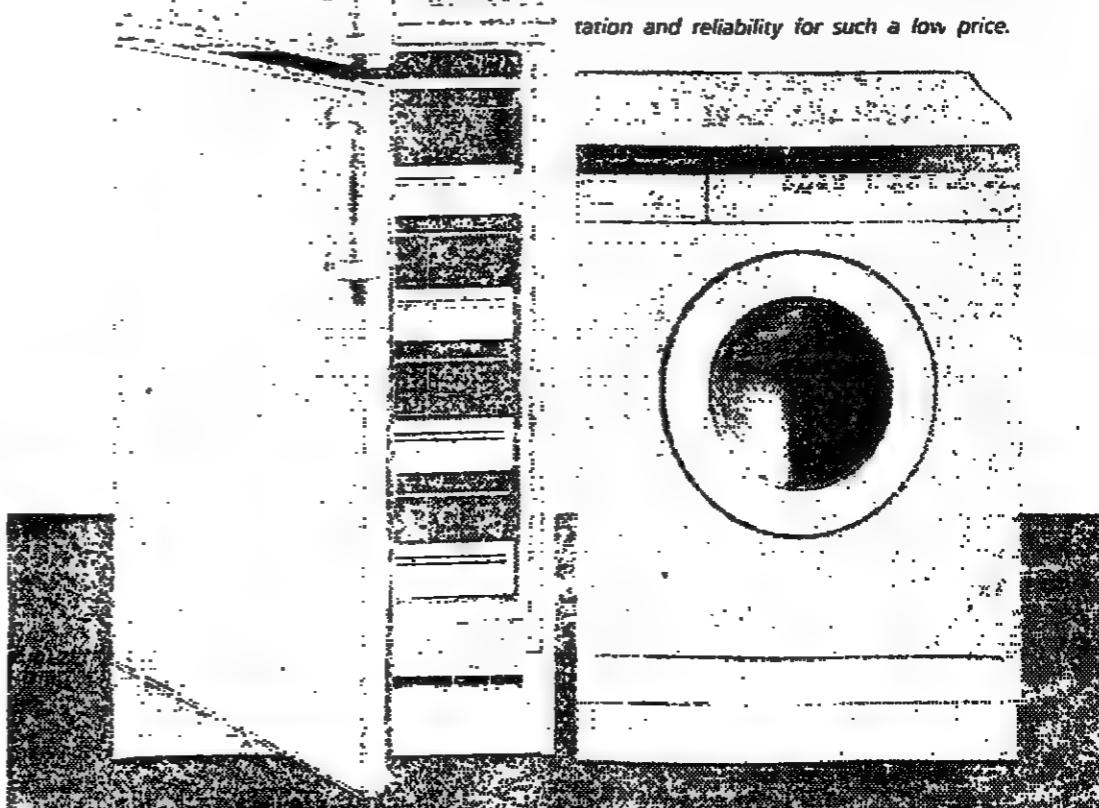
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Breeding

A royal outcast spotted

THE Prince of Wales banished a spotted pony from his polo stable because it did not match his other, solid-colour ponies. The mare, an Appaloosa called Petruka, was sold but, with the help of her new owner, Desnie de Rivaz, she was to found a new dynasty before she died last year after spending a happy retirement with Paul and Linda McCartney.

Mrs de Rivaz bought Petruka in 1973 for her sons who played polo at Cirencester Park in Gloucestershire, and people said she ought to breed from her. "There weren't many stallions of the breed, but Dorian Williams's father had a Canadian Appaloosa, called *Sunrise Speckled Hawk*, and that really started it all," says Mrs de Rivaz.

Petruka was the last mare to be served by *Sunrise*, who died in a road accident, and Klaus, who had been reserve champion at the Utrecht Stallion Show and was destined to be national champion in this country for 11 years, was imported from The Netherlands to serve Petruka, who had ten foals by him.

The de Rivaz stud came into being near Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, as did the British Appaloosa Society.

The breed is on show today and tomorrow at the first two-day Appaloosa event at the British Horse Society centre at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

The Appaloosa is a hardy breed requiring no special treatment. "It



Casting memories in the club room: Mick Lunn, the head keeper to the famous Houghton fishing club in Hampshire for 27 years, says he has had an enviable life, but fears for the future of his beloved River Test.



Appaloosa: markedly different

is the perfect all-round horse," Mrs de Rivaz says. "It will do dressage, hunting, eventing and showjumping. And it has a wonderful temperament." She sold one horse last year for £4,000.

The Persians claimed the ancestor of all spotted horses was Rakush, a warhorse of 400BC. The breed was taken to America by Spanish adventurers. Charles II had an Appaloosa, with red on his rump, named Bloody Buttocks.

Colour is important. Eight basic coat patterns include spotted blanket, white blanket, marble, leopard, few spot leopard, snowflake and frosted filly. A white sclera to the eye is an essential, giving an alert expression.

SANDY BISP

• British Appaloosa Society, c/o 2 Frederick Street, Ranelagh, British Horse Society, 0203 696697.

Perfectly matched with the Test

Like his grandfather before him, keeper

Mick Lunn has spent his days by the water

He tells Stewart Tendler about his life's work

FOR 50 years Mick Lunn has walked the banks of Britain's premier chalk-stream, codding fish and gathering alder as keeper for the Houghton Club. Mr Lunn and his members enjoy that particularly English fishing idyll — a crystal clear stream, a carefully cast fly sitting dry on the gently shifting surface, and the rising nose of a hungry, inquisitive trout.

This world has always been the bays and glades of the River Test as it weaves through the Hampshire meadows. He has been the club's head keeper for 27 years, following a family tradition begun by his grandfather in the 1890s and described in an autobiography to be published later this month. Next year, as winter turns to spring at the beginning of his 65th year, he will retire, bringing to an end a fishing dynasty.

The Lunn story began in 1886, when grandfather Lunn, a Londoner and originally a brickmaker, joined the Houghton Club as a keeper. Formed in 1822 by 12 members, and based at the Grosvenor Hotel in Stockbridge, near Andover, the club is the sanctuary of the greatest of the Victorian "fishing gents". Houghton prided itself on good fellowship, developing a collection of records, paintings, notes and writings which continues.

The artists Sir Edward Landseer and J.M.W. Turner were members, contributing paintings or

sketches to the clubroom above the hotel. In those days the anglers were known as "blowers", relying on the wind to help them cast live insects impaled on hooks on their lines. No wind meant seeking solace in the sketch book.

By the turn of the century, members had been converted into "whippers" and used the forerunners of modern fly rods to flick imitation flies on to the river.

Grandfather Lunn, the head keeper for 44 years, was an expert entomologist and created more than 40 patterns for tying flies, bearing such names as Lunn's Particular and the Houghton Ruby, which are still widely used.

"In those days fishing was really for the gents," Mr Lunn says. "On Sunday, after church, my father might let me fish for minnows in a mill pond, but what I caught would be used as bait for pike."

After his first real catch, a one-year-old grayling, there was little doubt what his career would be. He cast his first fly line at the age of eight and began tying flies for the members two years later.

The river beyond the boundaries of the club's 15 miles was then in the hands of estates on which the squire and his guests fished at the peak of the season. But by the time Mr Lunn came into his inheritance, the river was in the hands of syndicates, which fished through the season.

The club membership increased, but it has remained small

and intimate: members still meet each morning round an oak table to allocate the day's bags, beneath the gaze of one of the founders, sketched in his 100th year.

"People talk about the club being exclusive, but there are 24 people to fish," Mr Lunn says. "The

quickest way to spoil good dry-fly fishing is to over-fish. May-

be there were once a lot of earls and knights fishing the river, but that has all changed. Now the membership is mainly professional — solicitors, doctors and so on.

Not all of the fishermen are experts, but they enjoy it." The president is Lord Perth, who has been a member for more than 40 years. In its time, the club has hosted a variety of guests, including the Prince of Wales and President Eisenhower. Membership is by invitation, at a price which Mr

Lunn says is far cheaper than might be expected for fishing on a river where some owners charge more than £100 a day. The club bought the Grosvenor Hotel more than 60 years ago to protect its clubroom, and it also runs a profitable fish farm serving many

other fisheries. Should an invitation to join the club be extended, it may be some time before it is fulfilled. Two or three years ago the members included a brace of anglers in their nineties. Today's members include several in their eighties. Members can be remarkable

for their eccentricity as much as their longevity. A celebrated surgeon was once prompted to try fishing from the wheel of his Bentley car to emulate the Victorian anglers who cast on horseback. Mr Lunn records that the fish prudently fled at the sound of

the car on the bank. Other members are more successful. Mr Lunn recalls one man who recently caught a 7lb trout. "He carried it in his arms like a baby and let everyone see it."

His job is to make sure that the river provides its annual bag of 1,600 to 1,800 trout, using a mix of mammal fish and fish stocks each spring, and to guide the anglers to their quarry. He is a fisherman's confidant, soon, his selector and master of the must.

The perfection of his task is to see a fly cast accurately under the nose of a responsive trout. Despite his grandfather's fly-fishing expertise, he believes it is the fisherman rather than the fly that gets the fish. "It's presentation. The way the fly goes over."

Mr Lunn would not attribute to trout the cunning and intelligence that mythology has given them. But there are "big old chaps" who appear at the peak of the season and then disappear again. There are also the fish who "pass their A-levels" and escape being caught.

By the end of the season they have become the keeper's friends, constantly rising to tempt the angler and keep him busy.

How much longer they will continue to rise is the subject of speculation. The omelets are not good. Fish farms are adding waste and disease to the water, towns are pumping out sewage and farmers are adding fertilizers from their land. The river relies on its vegetation

for filtering and that is now in danger.

The winters have become unusually mild and dry. The rain is not steady but too sudden and too little to replenish the springs on which the Test relies. "When my father retired in 1962 he said you will have a drought one of these days, boy." The last he had was 1921," Mr Lunn says. "Along came 1976, my first. Having got over that, I began last along came 1989. There is a weather change. When I was a boy if we did not have snow at a freeze in winter there was something wrong."

Starting at a river with little of the weed which normally covers its bottom and none of its traditional gin-clear clarity, Mr Lunn says: "You won't hear the river crying down. You've been at it so long you're loyal to it." When fishermen complain, but then you sit at home and wonder, "Is this thing going wrong?"

This year the Test is again suffering from a mild winter and little rain. The river depth is lower and the flow is slower.

No son will follow to protect the Lunn's achievements, but the family connection may not be lost. "My grandson is a good little fisher. He says 'let's go fishing' and I say 'worm or fly' and he says 'fly, Grandpa'."

• A Particular Lunn, by Mick Lunn with Clive Graham-Rangi, to be published by Unwin Hyman on July 26, £14.99.



Young Mick Lunn (left) and friend

Country events

THIS WEEKEND

• **Sleighton show for rare breeds** Largest animal show of its kind in southern England. More than 500 entries including Sussex cattle, Jacob sheep, pigs and goats. Also country crafts and sheep shearing demonstrations. Grand parade 4pm. Refreshments.

• **Exmoor International festival** Three-week festival begins today. Programme includes opera, concerts and recitals, ballet, talks, readings, jazz and drama. Book Fair today and tomorrow in the Octagon. Torchlit procession round the town from 10pm. *Buxton, Derbyshire. Today until August 11. Programme, further information and booking at the Opera House (0298 92190).*

• **Shagborough goose fair** Recreation of an early 19th century fair with fire-eaters, jugglers, tumblers, strolling players, dancers and musicians, puppets and stalls. Greasy pole, apple bobbing and horseshoe-throwing competitions. *Shagborough, Milford, near Stafford (0885 881388). Tomorrow 11am-5pm. Adult £5, child £1.50. Car park free.*

• **Upper Slaughter church fete** Tours throughout the afternoon, also indoor swimming, target shooting, pony rides, trick cycling, car obstacle course, dog show, stalls, brass band, refreshments. *Eyford House, Eyford Park, near Upper Slaughter, Gloucestershire. Today from 1pm.*

• **Shambles** Members of the Pre-50 American Auto Club with their cars, including Lincolns, Cadillacs, Oldsmobiles, Buicks, Packards, Chryslers, Studebakers and Chevrolets. House, gardens, park and adventure playground all open. *Knebworth House, Knebworth, Hertfordshire (0438 812661). Tomorrow 11am-5.30pm. Admission to rally and all facilities adult £5, child £3.*

• **Great Western air days** Flying displays, military shows, arena events, showjumping, dog show, arena stalls and a craft marquee. *Proceeds to charity. Beach Lanes, Beach Road, Weston-super-Mare, Avon. Wed, Thurs 9am-6pm, adult £2, child £1, under fives free.*

• **Downland guided walk** Four-mile walk on little-used paths east of East Dean, via Pea Down. Walk lasts approximately three hours. *Eastbourne, Junction Priory Heights and Burrow Down roads (map reference 584003). Tomorrow from 2pm. Tickets — adult £1, child 50p — must be booked from the TIC (0323 411400) or the Beachy Head Countryside Centre (0323 411145).*

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MY FARMING week started far from home, in the bleak Norfolk Fens: a low-lying, fertile tract of land where the wind always blows chill. It must be a lonely life for a Fenland farmer: impassable drainage ditches make every man an island, and neighbouring farms can be miles apart via the nearest bridge. I have always imagined Fenlanders as being dour and remote.

My host was an amiable sort, however, not at all derailed by his isolated existence in a bungalow built into the breach of an old sea-wall. A few miles to the north were the swirling waters of the Wash, and the constant hum of pumps suggested that we were some feet below sea-level. I avoided mentioning the greenhouse effect.

We had a cup of tea and, just as I was reproaching myself for thinking Fenlanders any different from the rest of us, he picked up an aged carving knife, held it a couple of inches from my nose until the steel was too close to focus on and, with his eyes wide, said: "This was my father's. He used this to kill pigs. Kill pigs?" Then he pretended to slash his throat, impersonating the

inherent directions. They led to a

bark of a dying swine as the steel flashed across his neck. I finished my tea, hurriedly.

I had done my deal and secured my treasure: a horse-drawn swath turner, which I towed home to Suffolk rejoicing. This machine flips heaps of newly mown grass so that it can dry in the sun and become hay. I have long coveted a machine I once saw which did this wonderfully: it had a series of mechanical flippers which kicked the hay high in the sky as the horse walked along, and resembled a robot attempting the Charleston. The machine I had just bought was more dour and Fen-like in its action, but just as effective.

I arrived home to be told by my wife that she had managed to spend 20 minutes lost in the middle of a three-acre field. This is quite an achievement, and so, with some curiosity, I followed her

patch of land which has had a question mark over it: some of our land is still carrying the crops of the previous owner and I thought he was tending this field, while he believed that I was. The result is that nature seized her opportunity: the weeds have thrived on last year's nitrogen residues, and we have stalks of mayweed and thistles that reach higher than a kilometer. Sootsman would find

flight, it was as if I had just seen the entire crowd at Wembley Stadium rise, and knew that next spring I would have to shake hands with each of them.

One skirmish with weeds has already been lost. You may remember that the first crop I sowed was clover, which I did while the moon was waxing on the ancient theory that the growth of the moon encourages the budding of the crop. So it did: a good crop of clover appeared, but so did numberless weeds. We had docks, fat-hen, mayweed, poppies and yet more thistles. Despair. I announced at breakfast that I was off to kill the fat-hen and could not understand why the children's eyes filled with tears. When I explained that the victim was not our chuckling, speckled friend, good humour was restored.

I need not have fretted. When I turned to yet another of my many

textbooks I found that the invasive fat-hen weed gets rave reviews as "an indicator of high soil fertility"; that mayweed's "profusion of leaves makes a valuable contribution to soil fertility if mown", and that when the author got a similarly disastrous clover crop he simply mowed it and let the mowings lie until they rotted and fertilised the soil. Twelve months later, after a little carefully controlled grazing by cattle, he had "a field that was without superior in Britain". It seemed worth a try. If we can have no clover hay this year, we can at least have hope.

Our came the horse-drawn mower, and one man and his horses went to mow a meadow. The blade clattered through the growth, reminding me uncomfortably of the Fenlander's pig-sticking knife. I began to view the field as an exciting experiment in natural fertility, rather than a beginner's failure.

I now gaze upon my brownish field of dry stalks in certain expectation of the finest sward in all England; even the fine haze of thistledown wafting down the hill cannot depress me. Much.

On the wings of a dream

WHEN he was a boy, Dr Peter Player, a general practitioner, cherished a secret ambition to own a zoo. At the age of 43, his dreams have crystallised in the form of a bird park which opens at Flimwell, East Sussex, today.

Dr Player teamed up with a neighbour, Bill Stacey, to buy 14 acres of woodland for the project. The men have spent thousands of pounds creating six islands, each with its own waters and each stocked with ornamental and exotic water fowl from Europe, Asia, Africa, America, Oceania and Australia.

There are more than 200 birds of 35 species, plus black swans, peacocks and pheasants.

Dr Player, who was one of the first students to take degrees in ecological sciences at Edinburgh University in 1966, says: "Of course the patients come first. I always wanted to be a family doctor, like my father, but he too had an abiding interest in birds."

From the age of 12 until he left for university, Dr Player built up a collection of around 100 ducks of 25 different varieties, which he left to his father's care. Those caretaking duties extended while his son studied medicine, are acknowledged today with an invitation to Dr Henry Percival Player, now retired, to perform the private opening ceremony.

Dr Player Jr worked for two months in a mission hospital in the highlands of New Guinea and while there he managed to spot some of the rare Salvadori's ducks beside a raging torrent - "one of the high spots of my life", he says.

Among Flimwell's novelty items is the Magellanic Steamer duck, originally from Argentina's coast, which costs around £600 a pair. "It is flightless, large and steams away rather fast," says Dr Player. "All our birds are the product of captive breeding."

Flimwell makes its contribution to conservation by nurturing Cuban whistling ducks, which are close to extinction in the West Indies. Laysan teal, down to one mother and her brood until an American breeder saved the Pacific island variety, are also there and it is hoped some white winged woodchuck will be on loan from the Wild Fowl Trust. Now that the bird park is a reality, Dr Player will hand it over to be run by a team headed by his sister, Valerie Pearson.

SANDY BISP

• The park is open from 2pm today. There is an exhibition room plus a children's playground, picnic area and cafe. Situated just off the A26, admission is £2.50 (adults), £1.75 (children and senior citizens). Inquiries to Flimwell Bird Park, Hawkhurst Road, Flimwell, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 7QP (0380-8202).

Taking the plunge on a pool of your own

Assets

The greenhouse effect could be the reason for the swing back to outdoor, rather than indoor, pools, says Norman Lingham, of the Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association. "Of the 5,000 to 6,000 pools sold in Britain last year, most were for outdoor use," he says. However, Steve Geeke, of the PG Group, which accounts for about 40 per cent of pools sold, says sales of indoor pools are also booming.

Many home owners are installing DIY pools, a much less expensive option. Penguin Pools, for example, offers a kit from £4,000, plus VAT. A similar pool installed by the company costs from £12,000.

Anyone still at the planning stage might consider a tailor-made indoor pool. As well as being able to use it all year round, heating bills are lower than for an outdoor pool. Most permanent structures need planning permission.

If the budget will not stretch to an indoor pool, consider a covered outdoor pool. The most elegant cover is a conservatory with glass or PVC panels.

Pool Pavilions offers the conservatory-style Palladian with glazed panels (from £25,343, plus VAT for a 10m x 6m building), and the Pallas, which has a double-skinned roof with sliding panels (from £10,567, plus VAT, for a 5.7m x 5m structure). Graceful alternatives are Arde's conservatory-style structures. The Monaco and the Carlton have functional, clean lines, and the airy Victorian offers a variety of decorative features. Each has a twin-walled polycarbonate roof and toughened glass sides. Prices start from £27,200, £29,700 and £30,600, respectively, plus VAT, for a 7.5m x 6m structure.

An indoor-outdoor option is created by Lanzare's Oxford enclosure, which is telescopic, allowing one or more sections of PVC glazing panels to be rolled back. This arched aluminium structure costs from £13,800, plus VAT, for a 7.5m x 6m building. Another, less expensive possibility is a lightweight, see-through, inflatable dome, which can be pumped up like an air-bed. The

heavy-duty polythene domes made by Covair Structures take two people about an hour-and-a-half to erect. There are five sizes and prices start at £1,196, including VAT, to cover a 40ft x 20ft pool, plus £170 delivery.

Similar domes are made in vinyl by Lanzare. The Deluxe Pool Dome offers at least 6ft headroom over the whole area, while the Low Profile Pool Dome suits smaller gardens. The Cable, with anchor posts for greater security, is £1,850. Other models start at £1,898, plus VAT, for a 28ft x 16ft model. Delivery and installation charges are extra.

Owners of open-air pools looking for a way to avoid debris in winter might consider Alien Plastics' Easibag winter cover. This vinyl sheet, secured by the weight of separate water bags, costs from £210, plus VAT and delivery, for a 20ft x 10ft cover.

A filtration unit is essential for keeping the water clean. But it is also wise to buy a surface skimmer to collect leaves, equipment to keep the sides, bottom and surroundings clean, and water-treatment chemicals for disinfecting the water and killing algae.

Shallow nets are useful for gathering surface detritus, and deeper nets for reaching the bottom. Underwater vacuum cleaners take about an hour to clean an average-size pool and need to be used weekly, or more frequently in windy weather.

NICOLE SWENGEY

• The Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association runs a telephone enquiry service and publishes leaflets. Spazio House, Junction Road, Andover, Hampshire (0264 23345).

• POOLS AND COVERS: Penguin Swimming Pools, Bakers Lane, Galeswood, Chelmsford, Essex (0277 840711). Pool Pavilion Products, Unit 2, West Ham Lane, Monthon Industrial Estate, Wormingford, Basildon, Essex (0266 473552). Lanzare, Unit 7, Oakfield Industrial Estate, Eynsham, Oxfordshire (0865 883727). Arde's, 1 Greenford Way, Gwernan, Gwent (0633 672134). Covair Structures, Unit 7, Venture Court, Dodswell Bridge Industrial Estate, Hinckley, Leicestershire (0455 619101). Alien Plastics, 1 Edison Road, Churchfields Industrial Estate, Salisbury, Wiltshire (0722 26873).

• CLEANERS: Ameson Pool Sweep, Ray-Vac and Aquaneaut, Norcal Engineering, 16, 17 & 18 Pelham Court, Pelham Place, Broadfield, Crawley, West Sussex (0293 546128). Polaris, Aquatec UK, Unit 1D, Kennetstone, Bone Lane, Newbury, Berkshire (0635 49141). Barracuda Manta and Dolphin, the PG Group, Unit 9, Wifton Park, Avenue 2, Stanton Lane Industrial Estate, Witney, Oxfordshire (0993 778855). Kreepy Krauly, Unipools, 621 Watford Way, London NW7 (081 959 8668).

Originals: Sean Feeney, furniture designer

Intricacies of plane speaking

SEAN Feeney is a furniture designer and maker of such fertile imagination that he could turn Holst's *The Planets* into a bedroom suite for Patrick Moore. One client he recently accommodated wished to wake each day to see the sun's rays streaming across the bedroom furniture, so, using inlays, the sun was made to rise on one bedside table before bursting across the bedhead and setting on the other table.

"Nothing a customer might ask surprises me," Mr Feeney says. He is a man who understands the need for a secret drawer in a dressing table — and a decoy drawer baited with second-best jewellery.

At the old village school house in Preston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, Mr Feeney answers the door wearing a long, white apron. He gives visitors a moment to rock on their heels, dazed by sudden smells of sweet timber.

What is he making now? A photograph frame. But no ordinary frame: large, and designed to look like a Georgian house, it might not look out of place in the National Gallery. The frame's kaleidoscope of marquetry will pick out building features, keystones and shadowing in a variety of woods ranging from ebony, oak and Swiss pear through to dark red madrone. Family photographs will be viewed through 'jin by 5in windows in the house frontage.

Mr Feeney, aged 34, has been designing and making fine furniture for about five years. After a college course in cabinet-making, he worked as a pattern-maker, producing detailed, industrialised prototypes for a design consultancy. Deciding he was more comfortable with furniture, he started restoring antiques and doing reconstruction work.

"It was very low-key to begin with, mainly by word of mouth," Mr Feeney says. "But once people had one piece, they would come back for another."



Custom-maker: Sean Feeney is never surprised by a client's wishes

well as using about eight different chisels, Mr Feeney uses devices such as spokeshaves for shaping chair legs.

Three pieces of Mr Feeney's work — an ash wall unit, a dining chair in limed oak and a low table in London plane and sycamore, all costing about £650 each — will feature in the largest exhibition of individual designer-makers in wood, to be held in Cheltenham.

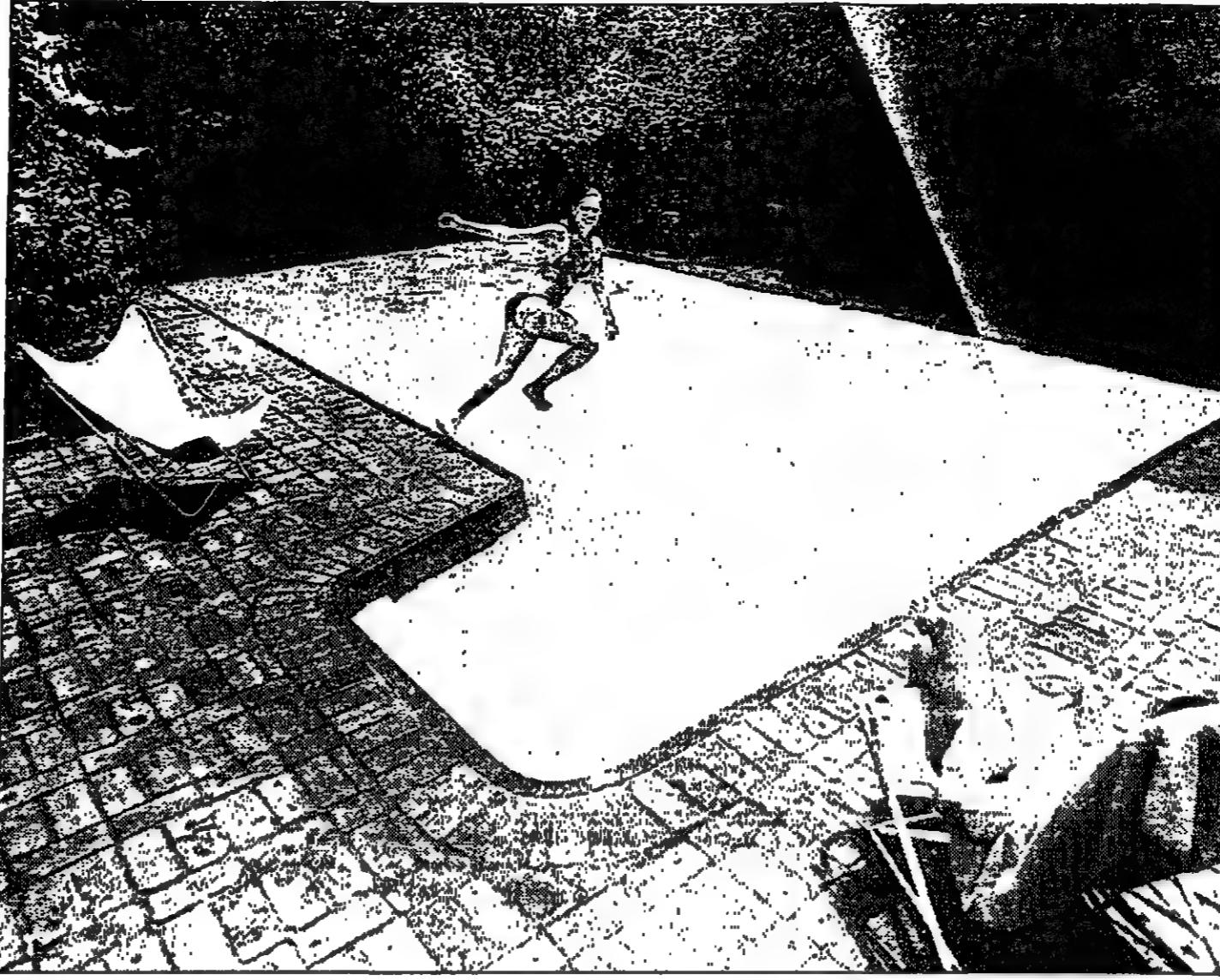
The exhibition will also mark the publication of *British Craftsmanship in Wood* by Betty Norbury, illustrating the work of 185 craftsmen and small workshops.

SANDY BISP

• Sean Feeney Furniture, the Old School, Preston-on-Stour, Warwickshire (0789 87519). British Craftsmanship in Wood exhibition, August 4-12, Thurlstone Long Gallery, Cheltenham College, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (details from Mike Lemmy, 0242 238582).

• British Craftsmanship in Wood, by Betty Norbury will be published by Stobart Davies (1.11).

In his yard, woods such as white ash and olive oak are drying. After drying outdoors for a year or more, the wood is kiln-dried for between four and six weeks. Any remaining moisture calls for the use of dehumidifiers in the workshop to keep timbers stable for working. After being raked, sawn, and stacked, planing begins. As



Cool idea but... before you leap into installing a pool, check on the type you need and all the costs — including cleaning equipment

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A year of fakers and thieves

Twelve months ago the art market looked in good shape. Now, as Sarah Jane Checkland reports, prices are haywire and all is confusion. What lessons have been learnt?

Last October, when the art market year began, auction buyers had never seemed more biddable. The year has closed in confusion, with prices haywire, dealers gloating that auctioneers were having their come-uppance, and auctioneers looking to their campaign plans. Much of the mood change was the result of the general boom, rather than the actions of any particular group or individuals.

First came a boom in art faking, best witnessed by the unmasking by Scotland Yard's art and antique squad of what was said to be the largest international mass-produced fake factory for years. Faked Noel Coward paintings, coins and automobile memorabilia apparently worth £1.5m were produced and cased quietly into the market during 1987 and 1988.

The gang's *coup de grace* was its clever adaptation of letters stolen from Sotheby's into certificates of

includes 11 uninsured paintings estimated at \$2.00 million (£125 million), stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston this spring, among them is a rare Vermeer.

There are fears for the safety of 16 Old Master paintings stolen from the Alfred Beit collection in County Wicklow in 1986. The least important — *The Letter Writer*, by Gabriel Metsu — was seized by Turkish police in Istanbul two months ago from a man linked with the Ulster Volunteer Force, a paramilitary organisation.

Serious damage has been done to the credibility of the British art export system by the actions of Nicholas Ridley, the recently departed trade secretary, in respect of Canova's *The Three Graces*. The statue, whose future is still not resolved, has been the subject of the biggest heritage campaign of the year.

Mr Ridley procrastinated by extending the export ban three times. When he finally imposed a long-term ban, he also turned precedent on its head by inviting private, British-based "benefactors" to put in bids, thus alienating the Cayman Islands-based company which owns it, as well as the Getty Museum, which was waiting to buy. The decision, said John Walsh, the director of the Getty, was "bound to damage London's position as a centre of the art world".

The failure of Chris Patten, the environment secretary, to make a clear-cut decision on the statue's listed building status has affected the market. Because the statue of three eternally dancing lovelies was made for a specific niche at Woburn Abbey, lobbyists believe the Tavistock family broke the law by removing it in 1985. When pressed, Mr Patten's office issued a contradictory statement acknowledging that the statue was listed, but describing it as a chattel, and therefore capable of being legally removed.

Wishing to resolve the issue once and for all, the lobbying group Save Britain's Heritage initiated a judicial review to

authentication, notably one from Lord Mountbatten used to fake the provenance of two framed cigar labels purporting to be from the Casablanca peace conference of 1945, and signed by Churchill and others. The forgers had blanked out the writing on the letters, inserted their own messages and then made photocopies.

Last May, at Southwark Crown Court, Nadia Fairclough pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud and admitted having consigned many of the fakes to auction houses. The court heard that Scotland Yard wanted to extradite her father, John Fairclough, a prisoner on the run in California, believed to be the ringleader.

The market has also been sucked into what should be an academic rather than a market debate, over paintings attributed to Rembrandt. For 25 years a group of Dutch Rembrandt bulls have worked through the hapless Dutchman's oeuvre, attributing dozens to less famous members of his studio. Each time they do this, millions are wiped off a painting's value. Last December saw 40 works struck down, even though the project's methods are open to question. One casualty was the self-portrait in the Wallace collection in London.

A more frightening aspect of the market's flipside is the boom in art theft, often from museums, and involving increasing risk to paintings and people. Recently a number of Van Gogh's have been stolen from Dutch museums; there has been a spate of thefts in London's West End, culminating last week with the ramming of Asprey's shop window and the removal of a £742,500 diamond necklace.

The long list of untraced works

threw it out, but this was positioned when the minister asked for time to make a "fresh decision". That was on May 2. Sane is still waiting for the minister to make up his mind. Meanwhile, owners of state homes equipped with "fixtures and fittings" they would like to sell, are holding back.

Another running debate has been the extent to which auctioneers should be liable for the attributions they put in their catalogues. The year has been punctuated by two court cases

The archaeological community refused to accept that it just appeared from nowhere. Claims

not to mention Queen Victoria, the monarch most frequently recorded in China. She starts off looking ravishing but soon turns, and stays matronly.

Commemorative china emerged along with the industrial revolution, thanks to a combination of the invention of mass-produced creamware by Josiah Wedgwood in the 1760s and improved communications and transport. But as a guide to history, it is patchy and selective. Factory owners angling for royal warrants were excessively tactful with their images. The Ward collection is frequently punctuated by romantic transfer imprints celebrating betrothals, and figures weeping over tombs.

Cynical propaganda plates are rare and valuable. Good examples are the pieces issued around 1789 at the first bout of "Royal Madness" by George III, saying "Britons rejoice, cheer up and sing and drink his health, God Save the King" (£600 to £800).

Anxious to ward off the likely-



Stolen: empty frames are all that remains of 16 Old Master paintings from the Alfred Beit collection

initiated by angry clients, each culminating in opposite results.

The most notorious was that of Penelope Luxmoore-May against the Godalming auction house Messengers May Baverstock.

Two paintings of beagles sold for a song, only to fetch nearly £100,000 at Sotheby's shortly afterwards, having been fully catalogued to George Stubbs. Mrs Luxmoore-May claimed the first auction house had not done its job while preparing the catalogue, and at first her complaint was upheld, sending a shiver of apprehension through auction experts. It was thrown out, however, by the court of appeal last December.

This time the issue became hot once more, when a man who bought a painting by a minor artist which had been catalogued as "J.M.W. Turner RA" because those were the words written on the frame, had his complaint upheld at the court of appeal, on the grounds that the Trades Description Act of 1968 applies to the art world".

The failure of Chris Patten, the environment secretary, to make a clear-cut decision on the statue's listed building status has affected the market. Because the statue of three eternally dancing lovelies was made for a specific niche at Woburn Abbey, lobbyists believe the Tavistock family broke the law by removing it in 1985. When pressed, Mr Patten's office issued a contradictory statement acknowledging that the statue was listed, but describing it as a chattel, and therefore capable of being legally removed.

Wishing to resolve the issue once and for all, the lobbying group Save Britain's Heritage initiated a judicial review to

authentication, notably one from Lord Mountbatten used to fake the provenance of two framed cigar labels purporting to be from the Casablanca peace conference of 1945, and signed by Churchill and others. The forgers had blanked out the writing on the letters, inserted their own messages and then made photocopies.

Last May, at Southwark Crown Court, Nadia Fairclough pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud and admitted having consigned many of the fakes to auction houses. The court heard that Scotland Yard wanted to extradite her father, John Fairclough, a prisoner on the run in California, believed to be the ringleader.

The market has also been sucked into what should be an academic rather than a market debate, over paintings attributed to Rembrandt. For 25 years a group of Dutch Rembrandt bulls have worked through the hapless Dutchman's oeuvre, attributing dozens to less famous members of his studio. Each time they do this, millions are wiped off a painting's value. Last December saw 40 works struck down, even though the project's methods are open to question. One casualty was the self-portrait in the Wallace collection in London.

A more frightening aspect of the

market's flipside is the boom in art theft, often from museums, and involving increasing risk to paintings and people. Recently a number of Van Gogh's have been stolen from Dutch museums; there has been a spate of thefts in London's West End, culminating last week with the ramming of Asprey's shop window and the removal of a £742,500 diamond necklace.

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hood of the Prince of Wales coming to power, the Tories were behind the production.

Of similar rarity and appeal is a mug dating from the "trial" of Queen Caroline, when George IV tried to prove her adultery. This is decorated with a cartoon in the Rowlandson style, showing George and Caroline being weighed against each other on scales, while John Bull says "Well done Caroline, they think to make light of you, but it won't do, I'll see fair play" (£300 to £500).

As to the Queen Mother, the collection includes a rare cup decorated with a photograph of her as the pretty Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, just betrothed. There are a number of pieces celebrating her coronation.

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Surviving merrily on their own celebrity: Michael Caine and Roger Moore in Thursday's gala

Some birthday party

Sheridan Morley, at the Palladium, enjoys a multitude of stars gathered to honour the Queen Mother

FOR those of us whose recent experiences of royal variety shows have suggested that most of the acts had risen especially from the grave for the honour of being there, what happened on Thursday night at the London Palladium was something of a revelation. Mind you, with stall prices at £1,000 a ticket, it probably should have been nothing less.

In honour of the Queen Mother's imminent 90th in the presence of herself and her two daughters and her son-in-law, and in aid of numerous charities, Sir John Gielgud (himself a mere four years her junior) introduced what he promised would be "a rather large present". There followed an immensely brisk and efficient two-and-a-half-hour show-business tour.

We were taken on an annotated tour of the nine theatricals through which Her Majesty has lived, starting a little prematurely

with *The Pirates of Penzance* and working through to Wayne Sleep (the Mickey Rooney of the High Kick) in *Song and Dance*.

Along the way, with only the faintest overtones of *This is Your Life*, we heard Gielgud himself doing quite wonderfully, the 1914 speech from *Folly Years On*, Geraldine McEwan recalling a Glamis childhood, and then of course Dame Vera Lynn, bringing the first half to a ritual second world war close. Looking up at the evident pleasure of Her Majesty in a box decked with enough flowers to subside interflora indefinitely, one suddenly saw the delighted recognition of a sister under the skin. Her Majesty and Dame Vera have after all spent large parts of not totally dissimilar lives standing on platforms waving at enormous numbers of people in uniform.

True, the evening had its own Gothic moments of cringing uneasiness; Cliff Richard, dressed in a kind of sparkling eiderdown, announcing despite all historical evidence that "Darling we are the young ones", while Michael Caine and Roger Moore desperately tried to get through a racing sketch so appallingly written that it left them to survive on nothing more than their own celebrity.

On balance, however, this was an immaculately planned evening. There was Plácido doing his Mario Lanza impersonations, Warren Mitchell doing his now definitive Doolittle from *My Fair Lady*, Simon Cadell and Patricia Hodge recalling Noel and Gertie, Sarah Brightman, in what must have been the most personally traumatic music of the night, singing Lloyd Webber, Dame Kiri doing her birthday anthem, Stephen Fry reviving a classic cabaret monologue, and Rowan Atkinson offering a new one about an Australian rabbit poisoner mysteriously invited to address royalty with his memories of Laurence Olivier.

Best of all was to see the Queen Mother cheerfully singing along with Flanagan and Allen as reincarnated quite superbly by Bernie Winters and Leslie Crowther in a routine ruined only by the mysterious appearance of lines of random television quiz hosts at its end.

All in all, however, a night of considerable triumph for the producer Louis Benjamin and his director Yvonne Littlewood. Any one who ever again thinks of staging a royal variety show should watch this one (BBC 1, August 4) and then do something else, for it will not be easily rivalled.

ROCK: NEW YORK

Right-on rebels

Steve Turner on shades of radicalism at the annual New Music Seminar

There was one hot music style and one hot issue at this year's New Music Seminar, which ended on Wednesday night in Manhattan. The music was rap and the issue was freedom of expression.

The two collided last month when a rap quartet called 2 Live Crew, who played a closing night concert for the seminar, had their album, *Nasty As They Wanna Be*, declared obscene and illegal in three counties of Florida. Four days later, two members of the group were arrested for performing songs from the album. Earlier, a record store clerk was arrested after selling the album to an 11-year-old, and charged with "selling harmful material to a minor".

This was all exciting stuff for the 8,000 New Music Seminar delegates. It supplied the sort of *frisson* which alternative music thrives on. "Rock 'n' roll finally has a cause," declared the rock star Laurie Anderson in an address. "Artists have become the new communists."

The seminar, which started in 1980 with 200 delegates in a

rehearsal studio, is the alternative to such mainstream affairs as the Grammy award ceremony and Midem. Its commitment is to alternative music and independent labels, and it boasts that it has its ear to the ground, while major record companies, usually dismissed as "guys in suits", have their heads in the sand.

Yet it is never as simple as that. While executive director Mark Josephson talked of the "fringe radicals" attending the seminar, his colleague, Tom Silverman, encouraged delegates to see themselves as "tomorrow's mainstream". It is well known, for instance, that in 1982 Madonna attended the seminar to sell her demo tape.

In the discussions there was persistent moaning. No one thought their form of music received enough serious media attention. In other words, being radical and producing alternative music is only a route towards commercial acceptance.

Independent record companies are aware that since Sun Records of Memphis discovered Elvis Presley and



Laurie Anderson: "Artists are the new communists"

sold him to RCA, they have been the talent scouts of the rock industry. "Because we are smaller, we can move more quickly," said Moira Lynch, president of Tommy Boy Records.

Rap perfectly suits the spirit of the seminar. It is urban, do-it-yourself music which upsets conservatives and is usually independently produced. In the exhibition area, a temporary "rapateria" had been set up, with a mock subway set, where rappers did floor-spots all afternoon to packed audiences. One rapper, Ice Cube, sold 900,000 albums without the benefit of airplay or a video. Others make up their own cassettes and sell them on the streets.

Rappers interpret the arrest of 2 Live Crew and the practice of sticking warning labels on albums as part of a plot by middle-class whites to stop their children from empathising with black Americans. "Rap is the most powerful joining music. That's why they want to shut it down," said the rapper, Ice T.

While the theme set by the keynote speakers was freedom of expression, the theme of New Music Nights, in which more than 400 acts performed in venues all over Manhattan, was "A Global Affair". Special

MONDAY 20 JULY
TUESDAY 21 JULY
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY
THURSDAY 23 JULY
FRIDAY 24 JULY
SATURDAY 25 JULY
TUESDAY 28 JULY
THURSDAY 30 JULY
FRIDAY 31 JULY
SATURDAY 1 AUGUST
TUESDAY 4 AUGUST
FRIDAY 7 AUGUST
SATURDAY 8 AUGUST
FRIDAY 10 AUGUST
SATURDAY 11 AUGUST

Playing games with politics

THEATRE

Games Gate, Notting Hill

IVAN Klima is Czech; for 20 years his novels have remained unpublished and his plays unperformed. A poignant note reprinted from the programme of the 1975 premiere of this play, in Vienna, reads: "I would like to see the play staged... If I count correctly, then *Games* is the fifth play of mine that I am not allowed to see."

A country scared of allowing its writers the freedom to show their works damages itself thereby; it

can also harm the writers. And while the events after 1968 do not seem to have stopped Klima writing clear, economical novels, his inability to see any of his plays in production has affected his skill in making them work as drama.

I have only this play as evidence, since its production by the newly-formed Midnight Theatre Company is the British premiere of Klima's work. But *Games* shows that unless an author hears in rehearsal how wordy his speeches sound, he will not rewrite them for a performance. Too often the characters interrupt the menacing games they are playing to make known their views on liberty and justice – issues vital to a people labouring under

tyranny, but hardly functionally dramatic.

When John Moreno, playing an empty-hearted nihilist, makes politically sharp remarks about the police, these are integral to the unfolding plot. But this is exceptional. More typical are the scenes in which seven characters sit reading, wriggling or twitching their fingers while the eighth speaks. It is not a good recipe for involving an audience.

The play also shows that the presence of six loaded pistols and a rifle repeatedly aimed at characters is no guarantee that any of them will end up with a bullet between the eyes. Chekhov remarked that it is wrong to bring on a gun in Act I if it is not to be fired

by Act IV: Klima's variation is to bring on the gun but use a hangman's noose instead.

The eight acquaintances gather in a judge's home to play charades, murder and finally executions. It is hard to know when these games are played for real, or why, though Michael Medwin's deceptively bland entrepreneur often seems to be on the point of clarifying the matter for us, and Bill Britten's intense sociologist (a clever performance) occasionally begins to do so. When there is activity, Derek Wax's production generates a good swirl of movement on the small stage; when there is specifying, the evening drags.

JEREMY KINGSTON

MARILYN KINGWILL

Penny Dimond and Andrew Williams in *Ivan Vasilevich*

Ivan Vasilevich
Battersea Arts Centre

THE Company of Clerks' production of *Ivan Vasilevich* may not exert quite the same box office magnetism as Michael J. Fox in *Back to the Future III*, but this time-travel myth is delightful, as noble savage meets troubled civilisation. Andrew Williams's spirited Ivan is a pouting grubbiest, with his lugubrious, sorrowful air, this Tsar might easily fit the part of Eeyore in the next remake of *Winnie the Pooh*.

A programme note claims that the play, written at the height of Stalin's power, "represents an fantasy escape from persecution, echoing Bulgakov's own fight against state and artistic repression". Sadly, Guy Retallack's direction brings out only the fantasy and the comedy tends towards the anodyne.

The action falls neatly into two halves. In the first, the statutory mad professor dreams up an unpredictable Tardis, a C.S. Lewis-style wardrobe, which transports Ivan the Terrible into the present (ie the 1930s). The resulting mayhem is delightful, as noble savage meets troubled civilisation. Andrew Williams's spirited Ivan is a pouting grubbiest, with his lugubrious, sorrowful air, this Tsar might easily fit the part of Eeyore in the next remake of *Winnie the Pooh*.

In the second half, two men from the present are whisked back into the throne room of the absent Ivan (still trapped in a foreign world of art deco and bakelite) and attempt to impersonate the mighty ruler. The deception is firmly in the tradition of *The Government Inspector*, but lacks the multi-faceted dramatic ironies

of that play, or indeed of the first half of this one. The problems of mistaken identity begin to pale after the interval.

Retallack's stylised approach would be fine if it were coherent, but in playing up the superficiality of the play, he merely emphasises its rough, pock-marked surface. Suspension of disbelief becomes harder to sustain, and though the acting of this large cast is full of energy, it tends to lack the expansiveness that would convincingly bridge the cast/audience divide. Penny Dimond's doll-like flapper is a notable exception. Frequent clumsiness and comic possibilities falling by the wayside suggest that the play is under-rehearsed. It is fun, certainly, but Bulgakov deserves better on the 50th anniversary of his death.

MICHAEL WRIGHT

Roaring Forties

In Paris, Diane Hill has mixed feelings about Jérôme Savary's new musical, *Zazou*

baptised Zazou and is seduced by the handsome Jean.

Exiled by her parents to the country, Zazou discovers she is pregnant. When she returns to Paris to tell Jean he is a father, Zazou learns he is doing forced labour on a German farm. Jean's duties eventually include bedding the farmer's wife. The Americans liberate Paris, and Zazou (a single parent in a *chambre de bonne*) finds light relief in the arms of a passing GI called Dizzy (convincingly played by Allen Hoist).

From then on, the unpalatable flavour of the scenario takes on an unsavoury taste with Zazou working as a hat-check girl in the Taboo Club, and Jean celebrating peace with his *milchfrau*. The years pass, as years do in musicals, with a song and a dance, until a contrived piece of mis-timing has Jean arriving at the Taboo to find Dizzy, Zazou and his five-year-old son dancing on the tables. Scandalised, Jean flees and joins

the Foreign Legion, only to be killed in action (a nauseating tearjerker of a scene), leaving Zazou abandoned by Dizzy, to dance alone, mystically at midnight on the sands of Saint Tropez.

This naive and seedy dramatic framework is crudely clad in an unharmonious pot-pourri of songs of the era and about a dozen fumble-footed dance routines. Michel Dussaut's costumes are Zazou-zany, but like Jean Mousy's choreography, they lack the visual cohesion that crafts a string of song-and-dance acts into what today's glitz-wise audiences expect from a musical.

Savary also puts his name to the *scenographie*, so the impov-erished-looking cardboard cut out sets are either of his design or the result of a subsidy that ran out earlier than anticipated in a season that opened flush with francs. The economy-size cast also have a hard time filling the Chaillot's generous main stage, especially

the six-strong chorus, whose youthful energy is no substitute for the polish of well-honed choreography. Only Oswald d'Andrea's musical direction eases the overall tackiness.

With the capitals of the world alive to the sound of musicals, Savary – who recently successfully introduced a topless chorus line into Molière's *Bourgeois Gentilhomme* – was obviously hoping that *Zazou* would be an international hit. Where Savary does excel is, as he is fond of saying, "not casting stars but making them".

It was his French production of *Cabaret* that gave German-born Ute Lemper the springboard from which to launch herself into orbit and her own show. Portuguese-born Maria de Mărie does not have Lemper's length of leg but she readily finds the required kick into the role of Zazou, tailoring the shoddy material into a theatrical suit of clothes worthy of an Emperor. Since the doll-like de Mărie came to France in 1984 to complete her theatrical studies, she has been steeped in the classical repertoire. *Zazou* reveals she can sing and dance as well as act.

After the usual summer break, *Zazou* reopens on September 7.

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- ◆ SAMSON AND DELILAH
Plácido Domingo



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SATURDAY'S TELEVISION & RADIO

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Pure Maths — In Perspective 7.05 Data Models and Databases

7.30 Playdays. Educational series for the young. With Brian Jameson (r) 7.50

8.15 The 6.15 from Manchester. The Gremmies invade for a special interview on the children's magazine programme, already in chaos with the arrival of a new cartoon called The Jetsons. Repatrick features more budding rap stars, while the Chimes perform in the studio as does the winner of yesterday's Young Guitarist of the Year competition. Charlotte Hinde wanders round the British Music Fair, trying out innovative musical ideas

11.05 Film: Captain Simbad (1963) starring Guy Williams and Heidi Brühl. Above-average sword-and-sorcery adventure with the intrepid captain and his dependable crew as they bid to rescue his princess from the evil clutches of El Kemm, an immortal sorcerer who can be killed only if his heart is removed from a magic tower. Directed by Byron Haskin 12.27 Weather

12.30 Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.35, 1.05, 2.05, 2.35 and 3.05. Film: third round action from the British Open at St Andrews. The commentators are Peter Alliss and Bruce Critchley. 1.00 News: 1.55, 2.25 and 5.25 Racing from Newbury. The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan, Julian Wilson and Jimmy Lindley

5.05 News with Moira Stuart Weather

6.15 Regional news and sport

BBC 2

6.50 Open University: Maths — Fibonacci Numbers 7.15 The Changing Face of Poverty 7.40 Geology: Glaciers 8.05 The Passover among Jewish Jews 8.30 Exmoor: A Self Portrait 8.55 Information Technology: CIM 9.20 Social Work in the Inner City 9.45 English Romantic Poets in Italy 10.10 Images: The Crab Nebula 10.35 Fundamentals of Computing: One Small Step 11.00 The Effective Manager: Meetings 11.25 Evolution: The Islands of Hawaii 11.50 Flowering of Rosebuds 12.15 Education: All Down History 12.40 Microelectronics for Industry 1.05 Science: Volcanic Island 1.30 Modern Art: Legger 1.55 Peter Bruegel and Popular Culture 2.20 Perceptions of the IMF

2.45 Mahabharat. Episode 15 of the epic poem. Krishna grows into a handsome young man, but while the village girls are intoxicated by his good looks, Karna is not impressed by his decision to stop the villagers using butter to pay their taxes. In Hindi with English subtitles

3.25 Animation Now. Living Colours — a short animated feature

3.30 Film: Botany Bay (1932) starring Alan Ladd, James Mason and Patricia Medina. A student finds himself on board a ship bound for Australia as a prisoner when he is wrongly convicted of highway robbery. The captain is harsh towards his captive passengers and they suffer cruel torments. Impressively shot and robustly acted, this drama, based on the novel by Charles Nordhoff, focuses on the conflict between the wronged

5.20 Bugs Bunny: Cartoon fun with the cunning rabbit (r)

5.30 The 100th Royal Tournament. A special occasion marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and also the 100th year of the tournament. All the regular events take place, including the grueling Royal Navy Field Gun Competition, the White Helmets motorcycle display and the Metropolitan Police Dogs display, plus various special features such as the Royal Marines' Arctic Baffin. Military bands are on hand to provide the musical tributes. Eric Robinson is the commentator

6.35 Allo! Allo! Popular comedy series set in occupied France during the second world war. Renée and Michelle plan to run away to Switzerland, funded by the gold they have stolen from General Von Klinkerhoffen, but the train they are travelling on seems to have a few unwanted extras, like Herr Flick and Von Smallhausen of the Gestapo. Gruber, the Colonel, Helga and even René's wife Edith. Starring Gordon Kaye, Carmen Silvera, Vicki Michelle and Sue Hodge (r). (Ceefax). Postponed from last Saturday

7.00 The Les Dennis Laughter Show. A sometimes comic half-hour in the company of Les Dennis, who demonstrates his sport talents by mimicking the likes of Blue Peter presenter, satellite television, the Yellow Pages advert and a health farm. Lisa Maxwell, Martin Daniels and Mike Holder are on hand when the going gets tough. (Ceefax). Postponed from last Saturday

7.30 Takeover Bid. Bruce Forsyth hosts another round of the ruthless game show in which contestants have to amass as many prizes as they can by

young man and the sadistic skipper. Energetically directed by Farrow.

5.00 Golf: The Open. Continuing the coverage of the third round at the Old Course, St Andrews, which began on BBC 1

6.45 Eyes on the Prize. A six-part documentary examining the struggle of black Americans for their rights. The 1954 Supreme Court ruling against segregation in schools fails to make any impact because there is no organisation to enforce it. When a black 14-year-old boy is murdered for supposedly "talking fresh" to a white woman and the murderers are acquitted, black Americans decide that enough is enough and begin the movements that will bring about the changes of the 1960s and 1960s (r). Wales: Cannon 6.50 Under Sail 7.10 Walk in Westminster

7.45 What the Papers Say. Peter Miller, deputy editor of *The European*, examines the Press's reaction to the Nicholas Ridley affair (r)

8.00 News/View with Moira Stuart and Lynette Lithgow. Weather

8.45 Theatre Night: Iphigenia at Aulis. The first drama in Europe's war trilogy has been translated and directed by Don Taylor. Starring Fiona Shaw (as Clytemnestra) and Roy Marsden (as Agamemnon). The Greek fleet are about to sail for Troy to sack the city in an effort to regain Helen, the wife of Menelaus, and to avenge the wound to their pride delivered by Paris, but they find themselves unable to sail due to a lack of wind, and tempers begin to fray. Calchas, the priest, decides that a human sacrifice is needed — that of Iphigenia, daughter of Agamemnon, the commander-in-chief. (Ceefax)

taking them from each other. With Claire Sutton (r). (Ceefax)

5.00 Miss Marple: Sleeping Murder. Another case for the OAP super-sleuth, in a re-run of a series to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Agatha Christie. A family from New Zealand arrives at Hilleside, a Devon country house. One of the new residents, Gwenda Reed, begins to feel uncomfortable in the house and then has a strange vision of a man strangling a woman. Miss Marple is called in to investigate when Gwenda believes that the man and woman could be her father and mother. Starring John Hickson, John Moulder-Brown and Jean Anderson (r). (Ceefax)

9.50 News with Marilyn Lewis. Sport and weather

10.10 Rockliffe's Babies: Easy Meal. Successful police drama starring Ian Hogg as the eponymous Sergeant Rockliffe who is in charge of a group of raw, newly qualified officers. Tonight when the local hospital nurses are being frightened by someone, the WPCs go undercover to root out the strange attacker. Hogg believes that it is one of the staff, but he soon discovers that things are not so clear-cut (r). (Ceefax)

11.00 Film: Fame (1980) starring Irene Cara, Lea Salonga and Gene Anthony Ray. A musical drama following the students of New York's High School of the Performing Arts as they try to make their dreams a reality despite the harsh world in which they live. The way each individual story is followed makes this somewhat disjointed, leaving a number of irritating loose ends, but the Oscar-winning score is superb. Directed by Alan Parker

1.15am Weather

18.45 Golf: The Open. Highlights of the third round from St Andrews, introduced by Harry Carpenter

11.35 Film: Dr Strangelove (1963, b/w). If you have difficulty tonight, hearing the dialogue in Stanley Kubrick's nightmare comedy about East and West in nuclear confrontation, it is probably because of the film



Peter Sellers's eponymous scientist (1.30pm)

made by the demolition of the walls of mutual distrust which, in recent months, has impeded a faintly museum quality to Kubrick's 1963 vision of a world gone mad. It is, however, a museum packed to the doors with terrific exhibits, and one of the most spectacular showcases houses the phenomenal talents of Peter Sellers in the triple role of RAF group captain, president of the United States, and the eponymous scientist of most sinister aspect. Unthinkably in colour, *Dr Strangelove* is still the black-and-white fantasy to end all black-and-white fantasies. Familiarity with it has not bred contempt. Ends at 1.15pm

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am

9.25 Ghost Train. A medley of music, cartoons and competitions. Today's guests include actor Peter O'Brien and wildlife expert Chris Packham and there is music from Bananarama, Big Fun and Technicolor

11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Vintage. Video features Squeezo

12.30 Huckleberry Finn and His Friends. 1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather

1.10 A Band Called Derek. Andras Arnold tackles more green issues from a positive angle

1.40 Coronation Street (r)

2.35 International Rugby. Highlights of the first match between New Zealand and Australia in the series for the Bledisloe Cup

3.35 Film: Crooks Anonymous (1961, b/w) starring Leslie Phillips, Stanley Baker and Julie Christie. Enjoyable star-studded comedy about a jewel thief, decided to put himself behind bars when he is caught, but finds the conditions too much. Directed by Ken Annakin

5.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather

5.15 Zorro: Dead Men Tell No Tales. Mexican Region stars as the adventurer dedicated to fighting for justice in 19th century California

5.45 Children's Blockbusters presented by Bob Holman

6.35 Show in Their Eyes. • Mayze, as MC Leslie Crowther insists, this knockout contest for impressionists is brand new to television. But it will take more than mere novelty to attract to this new



Stanley Baxsey or a look-alike? (8.35pm)

series those viewers who believe, for example, that there is only one thing worse than Kylie Minogue — and that is the spectacle of someone impersonating Kylie Minogue. It is, however, a very good impersonation (vocal and physical tricks meticulously duplicated), and the same goes for the programme's other star — Frank Sinatra, John Lennon, Shirley Bassey or Elton John. Money-wise, nothing has been spared to give these look-alikes a stage setting that even the stars they are playing might have envied, even to the swinging ground truth without which it seems no TV/stage act can be performed nowadays. Mr Crowther's capacity to be astounded by the impersonators' skill makes up for his interviewing shortcomings

7.05 It's Beulah: More over-the-top pranks and ridiculous challenges

7.35 Close to Home. Comedy series starring Paul Nicholas as a perpetually harassed divorced vet (r). (Crackie)

8.05 The Saint: Wrong Number. Simon Dutton stars as amateur adventurer Simon King. Ends at 8.00

Templar. A marauding telephone call and a murder are the catalysts which draw Templar, a beautiful woman, and an elderly spy into a complex web of espionage on both sides of the Berlin Wall; just days before, and presumably the entire escapade, becomes obsolete. (Oracle)

9.55 News with Sue Carpenter. Sport and weather 10.10 LWT Weather

10.15 Pick of the PILOTS. Denise Norden, not content with unearthing the momentous, would rather forget for the 11.15 *Be Alright on the Night* series, has now persuaded television companies to give him access to the thousands of pilot programmes made for comedies, game shows and thrillers which got no further than an initial outing

10.45 Spitting Image. A compilation of the best moments from the rubbery satirist's recent attacks

11.15 Tour of Duty. American drama focusing on the experiences of the new recruits of Bravo Company on duty in Vietnam

12.15 Film: The Executioner (1970) starring George Peppard and Linda Collins. Predictable espionage story about an American-based secret agent and his assorted band of side-kicks who have the job of finding out who was responsible for a massacre on an English country estate. Directed by Sam Wanamaker

2.15 Film: Murder in Music City (1975) starring Sonny Bono, Lee Purcell and Claude Akins. A made-for-television thriller about a music publisher and his wife on the trail of a Nashville killer. Directed by Leo Penn

4.00 The Hit Man and Her

5.00 ITV Morning News with Christopher King. Ends at 8.00

surreal animation sequences — already seen in a 1981 movie version of *The Wall* — will be projected. For the show's highly symbolic finale (matching the symbolism of bands and choirs from East and West Germany playing on the same stage) the wall will come tumbling down. Live performers tonight include Roger Waters and the Bleeding Heart Band, Joni Mitchell, Van Morrison, Stead, O'Connor, Tim Curry and, as the judge, Albert Finney

12.20am Verdict. • It's a fair bet that no programme on Channel 4 tonight will set so many viewers' heads nodding (in approval or shaking in disapproval) as this round-table discussion aimed at achieving a majority (10 to 2) in a two-round vote on a real-life, personal, topic of universal concern: the dilemma should a wife and mother give up the part-time job that is her only economic justification and stay at home to look after the ageing mother who wants to move in with her? A professional actress plays the troubled daughter who the "Jury" are real? So convincing is she, and so persuasive are they in explaining why they are either sticking to their original position or amending them in the light of their deliberations, between the rehearsed and the spontaneous is not blatantly obvious

1.35 The Harp in the South. Adaptation of Ruth Park's classic Australian novel about the lives of an Irish-Australian family struggling to get on in the aftermath of the second world war. This week daughter Rose gets into a bit of trouble, while Hughie won't stop drinking. This testifies more difficult times for the family. Ends at 2.30

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 3.35pm-5.00pm BBC2. 5.15pm-6.15pm Film: The Story of Michel

and Jane 11.00pm Stephen King's *World of Horror* 2.00pm *The Hit Man* and Her 4.00-5.00pm US Pro-Surfing Tour

BORDER

As London except: 1.40pm-2.35pm *The Life and Times of Groucho Adams* 3.35-5.00pm *Film: Made in Heaven* 11.15pm *Savages* 12.30am *Film: The Hanged Man* 2.00pm *The Hit Man* and Her 4.00-5.00pm *America's Top Ten*

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.20pm-2.35pm *The Life and Times of Groucho Adams* 3.35-5.00pm *Film: Made in Heaven* 11.15pm *Savages* 12.30am *Film: The Hanged Man* 2.00pm *The Hit Man* and Her 4.00-5.00pm *America's Top Ten*

CHANNEL

As London except: 1.20pm-2.00pm *Wendy and the Willies* 2.35-5.00pm *Film: The Story of Michel*

5.15pm-6.15pm *Film: The World is Full of Married Men* 11.15pm *Film: The World is Full of Married Men*

11.30pm *Film: The World is Full of Married Men*

11.45pm *Film: The World is Full of Married Men*

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11.55pm *Film: The World is Full of Married*

Service chiefs urge Thatcher to announce defence review

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEFENCE chiefs yesterday urged the prime minister to sanction a government statement next week on the confidential Whitehall review of Britain's military commitments in the wake of the ending of the cold war.

Margaret Thatcher is understood to share their concern about the effects on service morale of continuing uncertainty about threatened sharp reductions in weapons and manpower, and the loss of celebrated regiments. She was believed to have responded sympathetically to their request.

However, Tom King, the defence secretary, still has to persuade the Treasury to accept the long-term spending implications of the defence ministry's *Options for Change* review. If he wins the argument in the cabinet's overseas and defence committee's meeting on Tuesday, a Commons statement would probably be made on Wednesday afternoon after full cabinet approval in the morning.

Accompanied by Mr King, the five service chiefs led by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig, Chief of the Defence Staff, set out their assessment of the global threats to Britain and raised any specific problems relating to the individual services at their annual meeting with Mrs Thatcher at the defence ministry.

The talks lasted nearly four hours, including a working lunch, and were said by government sources to have been conducted in a friendly atmosphere. The defence ministry, which has been making strenuous efforts to play down the significance of the meeting and to end speculation about tensions between the military and the politicians, concurred with this description and emphasised that the meeting was a routine affair.

However, ministerial sources left no doubt that Mr King would like to give an interim report on the progress of the review before MPs rise for the summer recess and

give approximate figures for planned reductions. These are likely to be concentrated on the 55,000-strong British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) and RAF Germany.

The sources also regarded the timing of yesterday's encounter between the service chiefs and Mrs Thatcher as fortuitous, with the Treasury seeking both short-term cuts in the annual spending round and longer-term reductions as a result of *Options for Change*.

The defence chiefs are understood to have warned Mrs Thatcher that the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union might not prove irreversible and that tensions could arise in the future.

According to insiders, they were "pushing at an open door" and their words will have reinforced Mrs Thatcher's instinctive caution about making sweeping cuts in the country's military capability. They believe that the meeting will have strengthened Mr King's chances of winning cabinet approval for a more modest package of reductions than the Treasury favours.

Born cuts, page 8



Final innings: John Remblance, foreman of Edgar Watts timber merchants, in Bungay, Suffolk, taking cricket bat cleats, the raw wood pieces needed to make the bat blades, to the kiln where they are dried out ready for export. For the last 80 years the firm has been harvesting willows and

shaping them into blades for cricket bats (John Young writes). But at the end of this season its contribution to the noble game will come to an end. Tony Watts, whose grandfather founded the business in 1910, yesterday blamed its demise on a shortage of the light cricket bat willows

which are deemed to provide the only suitable wood for the purpose. Ironically the planting of cricket bat willows is now being promoted as an alternative use for redundant farmland no longer needed for growing food. But the move has come too late: the gales of 1987 and of last January

destroyed many plantations, and newly planted saplings will take 15 years to mature. Mr Watts said that until two years ago the firm was producing 2,000 cleats a week, which were sent to manufacturers to be sized, finished and fitted with handles. This year production was down to 1,000,

which was no longer economic. In its time the firm has supplied almost all the well-known English batmakers but had recently concentrated on exports to Australia, India and Pakistan. "I am, of course, very sad about it," Mr Watts, aged 60, said. "It has been my whole life."

UK basks in hottest day of year

Continued from page 1

in Japan, in Otsuki City, and nearby Tokyo was only a little cooler at 35°C (94°F).

In another heatwave near the Arctic Circle there have been 25 tundra fires which are threatening wildlife and pipelines near Naryn, a gas production plant in Western Siberia, Tass said yesterday.

In Britain, a hospital warned parents about the dangers of allowing small children and babies out in the sun. The casualty department at the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham has treated 16 children in the past two days for severe sunburn, including a three-month-old baby with blistered arms. "I have never

seen so many young burns victims in such a short space of time. Parents do not seem to realise the danger posed by the sun's harmful rays. They could end up with deep burns of the skin which could scar them for life," said Sister Betty Cobain.

At Cardiff crown court Judge John Rutter gave barbers permission to take off their wigs and gowns and Judge Kenneth Taylor at Stafford crown court put aside his wig as the temperature soared.

Dogs and hedgehogs have suffered in the heat. The RSPCA renewed warnings not to leave dogs in cars even in the shade and the Vale Wildlife Rescue Centre at

Crofton, near Evesham, Hereford and Worcester, appealed to people to put out bowls of water for hedgehogs which cannot travel long distances for a drink.

About 300,000 passengers

are expected through Heathrow airport this weekend, one of the busiest of the year, and roads to coastal resorts are likely to be congested.

A high pressure bringing hot air from the Continent is responsible for the soaring temperatures which are not abnormal for July, a spokesman for the London Weather Centre said.

The last time the thermometer reached 30°C was a year ago when temperatures in

excess of that were recorded on July 21, 22, and 23. But the long hot summer of 1976 when 30°C temperatures were recorded for 12 successive days in June and July, is unlikely to be beaten.

Cricketers at Combwich,

Somerset, were assured of a good weekend's innings. Their pitch is next to the tidal stretch of the river Parrett which

is often flooded during bad weather. "Hot spell means we're sure of a game. Earlier this year the river came over the ground and our pavilion was last seen floating off the coast at Burnham-on-Sea," said John Dutton, founder of the cricket club.

Sandinistas bounce back

From ALAN TOMLINSON IN MANAGUA

AS PROBLEMS and divisions tear at the fragile coalition government of President Chamorro, the Sandinista Front has showed that it has bounced back from its election defeat in February and is on the road to a political recovery.

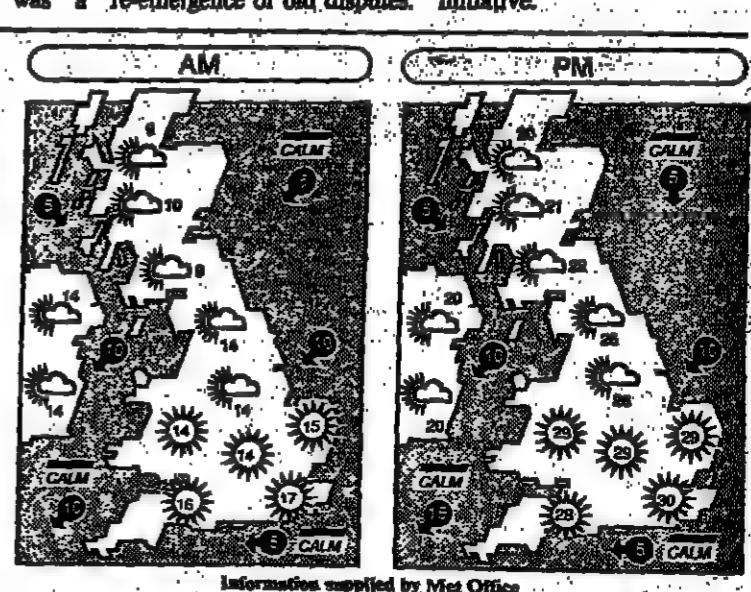
Tens of thousands of fervent supporters, most of them in their teens or early twenties, defied torrential rain to celebrate the eleventh anniversary of the Sandinista revolution with a traditional rally held for the first time out of power.

The occasion, which followed a week of bloody clashes between pro- and anti-Sandinista groups, was a

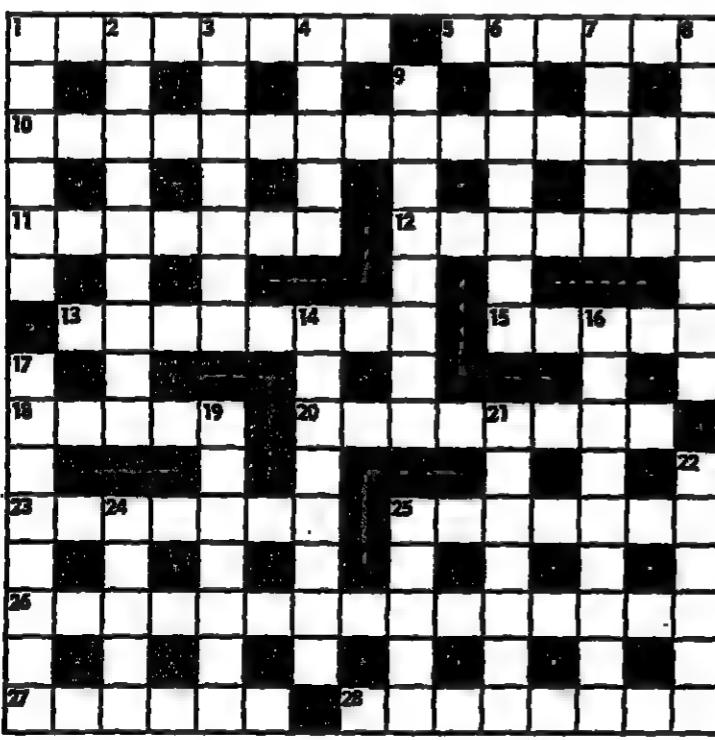
chance to measure how much our enemies have tried to feed this idea to help divide us," said Omar Cabezas, a former guerrilla fighter, now a Sandinista congressman.

By comparison, Senator Chamorro's 11-party commission, the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO), emerged severely clobbered from last week's street fighting in which six people died and dozens were wounded as the government tried to break a series of damaging strikes led by Sandinista-run unions.

The Sandinistas appear to have patched up their divisions, stayed off an organisational collapse and taken the initiative.



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,352



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FANTOCINI
a. Ribbon green pasta
Propets
c. Puff or cherubs
SCRIMSHAW
a. Sailor's handicrafts
b. Tawdry and brummagem
c. A surgeon's saw

PADBOLT
a. A bolt with padlock
b. A runaway Irishman
c. Horse's folder

SPARLING
a. The pile of a bridge
b. Looking grumpy
c. The common snail

Answers on page 15

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701*

Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702

Dorset, Hants & IOW 703

Devon & Cornwall 704

Wes. Glam., Avon, S. Wilts 705

Bucks, Herts & Essex 707

Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 708

West Mid. & Sth. Glam. & Gwent 709

Shrops., Herefs. & W. Mercs. 710*

Central Midlands 711

East Midlands 712

Lincs & Humberside 713

Dyfed & Powys 714*

Gwynedd & Cymru 715

N. W. England 716

W. S. Yorks & Dales 717

N. E. England 718*

North & Lake District 719

S. W. Scotland 720

W. Central Scotland 721

E. Central Scotland 722

Grampian & E. Highlands 724

N. W. Scotland 725

Clyde & Orkney & Shetland 726

N. Ireland 727

Weatherfax 728

Met. Office 729

Locality 730

L. Angeles 731

London 732

Paris 733

Vienna 734

Paris 735

Tokyo 736

Paris 737

Paris 738

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Paris 784

SUMMARY
Pedalling to Paris



CAN Greg LeMond win the Tour de France for the second successive year? With two days remaining, the American is only five seconds behind Claudio Chiappucci (above), of Italy. The climax to the three-week race, on the Champs Elysees tomorrow, promises to be as dramatic as last year, when LeMond recovered lost time to beat the Frenchman, Laurent Fignon, by eight seconds Page 32

EQUESTRIANISM

Family affair

JOHN and Michael Whitaker, the most successful brothers in show jumping, go into the world championships in Stockholm next week hoping to win gold medals for Britain. Jenny MacArthur talks to the brothers, who will be rivals and team mates for Britain in Sweden, and looks at their careers Page 34

FOOTBALL

Speaking out

WHATEVER happened to Chris Waddle in the World Cup? In a revealing interview, the enigma of England talks of the pressures on the team and himself in Italy as he prepares for his second season in French football with Marseilles Page 28

CRICKET

Final overs



ENGLAND and Ireland met yesterday in what was a dress rehearsal for the final of the European Cup for women's cricket. Carole Hodges (above) hopes to regain her place in the England side for tomorrow's match after injury. Report and prospectus Page 30

RUGBY UNION

Injury calls

ROB Andrew is unlikely to receive permission from his employers to join England's injury-stricken rugby union tourists in Argentina. Instead, England, who meet Buenos Aires today, are considering calling in Jonathan Callard, the Bath full back Page 28

RACING

Distinct mark



FRANKIE Dettori (above), the young Italian jockey, fresh from a double on Amurin and Madriya at Newbury yesterday, will be in action at Atlantic City tonight to partner another Luca Cumani horse, Markofdistinction, in the Caesars Palace Stakes Pages 32, 33

YACHTING

Ultra fast

THE fastest monohulls on the water are Ultra 30s, giant, high-tech dinghies capable of speeds more than 25 knots. Not only are they attractive to those seeking excitement, they are also the craft being used for a regular professional racing circuit. If you prefer motorised transport, the Princess 415 may be the boat for weekends away Page 37

Big three give the Open ideal finishing scenario



Hat dance: Peter Jacobson, of the United States, celebrates his birdie on the legendary Road Hole, the 17th, in the Open Championship at St Andrews yesterday

By MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE could be no better scenario this weekend for the 119th Open Championship at St Andrews than to have Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam vying for the title with the Australian, Greg Norman, and there could hardly have been a more romantic moment than that which saw Jamie Spence move among their midst on the Old Course yesterday.

Norman, the Open champion in 1986, provided moments of high drama, which included pitching in for an eagle at the 14th, on his way to a second successive 66 for a 12-under-par score of 132, as Faldo and Woosnam lifted the hearts of their supporters with performances that left the Australian with little breathing space.

Spence is a mere David compared to these Goliaths of the fairways, although he belied his inexperience of such occasions by compiling a 65. For that, he received deserved acclamation, even if, understandably, it could not be compared to the tumultuous welcome given to Arnold Palmer as he completed a marvellous 71.

No fewer than 33 years, not to mention two Opens, four Masters and a sizeable deposit in the Chase Manhattan Bank, separate Spence from the legendary Palmer. Spence, aged 27, has only once, since turning professional in 1983, finished in the top ten in a PGA tournament.

European Tour event, so it is hardly a surprise that he has not previously played in the Open Championship.

However, he has an attachment to the Open since Cleanmaster, the company which sponsors him, are responsible for servicing the portable latrines. Spence has himself been suffering from food poisoning since Saturday, when he was advised prior to the qualifying to eat little and take fluids, vitamins and glucose. He has subsequently lost weight and gained a reputation.

Since Spence was the first to tee off in the second round he avoided finding the "auid, grey toon" beneath a blanket of cloud, which the sun struggled to penetrate until late in the day, when the capricious wind, changing direction from hour to hour, became more of a zephyr as Faldo, Norman and Woosnam made their moves.

There was not a cloud on the horizon as far as Spence was concerned as he gathered eight birdies, although that was not the case last Christmas Day when his father, James, suffered a heart attack. "It made me realise that there is much more to life than worrying about making halfway cuts," Spence said.

Spence has been doing that for most of his career, treading his weary way back to the qualifying school no fewer than five times, and he has been the victim of the guillotine in each of his last four tournaments.

LEADERS

Par	Player	Holes
-12	Norman	32
-10	Watson	32
-8	Woosnam	32
-6	Faldo	32
-4	Parry	32
-2	Stewart	32
-7	Reld	32
-7	Spence	32
-7	Price	32

He owed his emergence from anonymity, not only to the determination born from the desire to cheer his father, who will be present this weekend, but to some exhilarating approach shots including one at the 17th which will live with him forever. There, his five-iron shot from 188 yards out-lipped the hole, although with a putt of eight feet for a birdie, he saw for the first time his name go on the Open leader board.

Spence will start this morning on the leader board, but he would be the first to accept that the attention will mostly focus on the likes of Faldo, Norman and Woosnam. Not that they alone can expect to dominate this Championship with so many outstanding contenders hard on their heels.

Stewart missed only one green which was the 17th where he salvaged his par. The American appeared comfortable both in his plus two and with his game. He wore the colours of the Green Bay Packers of Wisconsin, the state famed for their dairy products, and the look of a man who feels he

can like cream rise to the top.

He has quite recently worked with a sports psychologist, which has led to him being less critical of the inevitable bad shot. He has become increasingly confident with a putter in his hands. He was not entirely favoured by fortune on the greens although he did hole one putt on 20 feet at the sixth.

Nick Price has, on two occasions, come close to winning the Open. Tom Watson proved too good for him in 1982, and Severiano Ballesteros denied him in 1988. The Zimbabwean had no desire to exact revenge on them, yet he was given the perfect opportunity, since all three were paired together. Price took the honours with five birdies in a flawless 67 to join the American, Mike Reid, (67) and Spence on 137, whereas Ballesteros and Watson, who each took 73, lost all hope of emulating their deeds of 1984 at Royal Lytham and St Anne's two years ago.

A CROWD of 40,283 flocked to St Andrews yesterday to watch the second round of the 119th Open Championship, the biggest attendance for a day's golf over the Old Course.

The turn-out for the opening round on Thursday was 39,309, making a total of 79,592 for the first two days of the Championship. The second-round attendance record for the Open remains 44,000 at Royal Lytham and St Anne's two years ago.

professional has Torrance made a better start to the Open. He seemed for one marvellous moment on the threshold of taking command, as he gathered four successive birdies from the third, although he was eventually compelled to settle for a 70.

There is little substitute to experience when it comes to playing the Old Course and Lee Trevino provided further evidence of that as he put together a solid round of 70, which put him in touch with the leaders on 139. Jack Nicklaus could also still excel following a 70 for 141.

Open reports and second-round scores, page 29

Balanced attack needed

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

EVEN as the latest batch of one-day internationals was concluding at Trent Bridge yesterday, England's selectors were returning their attention to Test match business and, hopefully, a slight change of emphasis.

Since Graham Gooch acceded purposefully to the captaincy, it has been policy to play six specialists batsmen and only four bowlers. Gooch's reasoning is that you do not win Test matches unless you make sufficient runs, a sound theory for the Caribbean last winter, and put convincingly into practice.

The demands of the coming series with India, which starts at Lord's on Thursday, are rather different. India's bowling is not their strong point and if England cannot score enough runs with the highly accomplished top five they have in residence, they are not going to win anyway.

Dismissing the talented Indian batting twice in a game presents a sterner problem and one which surely requires maximum bowling options. It is some while since England went into a Test with an old-fashioned balanced attack of three seamers and two contrasting spinners, but the circumstances are right for it now, even if Gooch's inclinations are likely to remain against it.

Logically, if England are to include a left-arm spin bowler, it should be Keith Medlycott, who was thought good enough to go to the West Indies and then had no real chance to justify himself. He attacks and gets good players out, but despite a steady stream of wickets recently he is not bowling with quite the confidence or consistency the selectors will require.

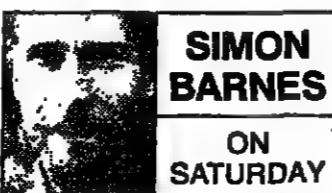
There are two other worthy candidates. Richard Davis, of Kent, and Phil Tufnell, of Middlesex. Both, like Medlycott, are past the 40-wicket mark this season. Both are 24 years old. Both are more accurate, though not necessarily more dangerous than Medlycott. Tufnell, who is impressing many opponents, would be my choice in the week of winning his county cap.

If the seam bowling strength is reduced to three, Malcolm Fraser and Lewis are the obvious choices especially as Small would benefit from a spell recharging his batteries. Lewis is a good enough batsman to go in at No. 7, behind the obdurate Russell, but the essential insurance of a sixth batsman in the party should give an opportunity to Morris, especially with Stewart's fitness now in doubt.

My 12 for Lord's would be: Gooch, Atherton, Gower, Lamb, Smith, Morris, Lewis, Russell, Fraser, Hemmings, Tufnell, Malcolm.

Trent Bridge report and county details, page 30

Hidden cost of a ticket price rise



Simon Barnes

ON SATURDAY

Asian pandemonium

HOW much would you pay to advertise your wares on a panda? I hear that there

is \$80,000. I hear that there will be two pandas taking part in the parade before the Asian Games in Peking later this summer. The relationship of Chinese politicians and the pandas is one of the most bizarre in the recent history of conservation. The latest notion involves giant pandas carrying advertising hoardings in the role as games mascots. This is a last-ditch attempt to try to get some money back: the cost of these Games has been enormous, and it has been estimated at \$126 million. Broadcasting rights have been sold, but the sum of \$900,000 still leaves them a couple of dollars shy of break-even. The asking rate for Pandas is \$80,000, but there has been no rush of takers.

Granted that ground safety and pitch invasions have changed the way of spectating, but it is still clear that watching cricket is increasingly the pastime of the well-off. It is a good deal, compared with non-Wagnarian opera — six hours' play and more for 20 quid or so. But opera needs its enthusiasts in the gods, and cricket should be available to all ages and wages. MCC members and executives do all right, and the profit goes back into county cricket. But cricket isn't just about money, it's about novelty and intention.

Sports typecasting

They are different from the competitive sports people, apparently. These are "Type A people". This is a category created by heart doctors, and it covers people whose cast of mind makes them particularly vulnerable to heart trouble. Such people are aggressive and driven by deadlines. They seek the thrill of victory. Type T people approach life in another way. Type-positive types control their level of risk, but Type-negative types are destructive, and include drug users. As for these Type A and Type T people, Farley says he suspects there isn't much cross-over between the two. Oh really? What about grand prix drivers? What about three-day eventers and steeplechase riders? I hear that David Brown, the former quick bowler for England and Warwickshire, is now a name to conjure with in greyhound racing circles. He farms and also breeds racing dogs. One of the dogs in his latest litter recently had an accident, and needed to have a toe amputated. The dog has recovered well, and its racing name has been registered with the National Greyhound Racing Club. The name? Tumus.

A Corinthian spirit

This column does not care

for snobbery, but cares a great deal for quirkiness. Amateurism was, historically, a device for keeping the working classes out of one's favourite sporting pursuit. But Corinthian-Casuals football club has followed the path of amateurism for so long, flying in the face of all reason, that one can do nothing but admire. This year, the club is celebrating a jubilee: it

was in 1939 that the two major amateur football clubs, the Corinthians and the Casuals, joined forces, to sink or swim together. Mostly they have sunk, but that is not the point. We maintain the old Corinthian spirit of fair play, amateurism and enjoyment of the game," their player-manager, Steve Bangs, insists. They are about to set off on their jubilee tour, travelling to Scotland to play Queen's Park, a team from IBM, of all things, and, naturally, Hamilton Academical. I wish them luck on their tour, and hope they will tear the Spartan League apart next season.

Suffering Skymedes

The Toronto SkyDome re-

mains a favourite place for

heels of the unforgettable did-

the-roof-move-for-you-honey

incident comes the information

that the famous moveable roof

of this enormous stadium has

got stuck. The southern shell of

the four-piece arrangement is

jammed in the closed position. A

fire destroyed the machinery

that operates it. Spokeschaps at

the stadium are expressing only

relief. When the roof is closed,

people complain that it should

be open; when it is open they

want it shut. Now we are

pleasing everybody," they said.

As for the Toronto Blue Jays, the

local baseball team, there is no

doubt about what they prefer.

When the roof was operating

properly, their record under a

closed roof was 21 wins and 13

defeats; when the roof was open,

they had five wins and nine

losses. They expect to have the

roof back and moving by

Waddle is very much at home abroad

Chris Waddle, formerly with Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur and now with Olympique Marseilles in the French league, talks to Jean-Marie Descamps, of the magazine *France Football*, of the pressures of being an England footballer

How did you find the World Cup?
It was difficult for attackers because, on the whole, the teams were very defensive.

Was it particularly difficult for you?

I had some highs and some lows. The French would not recognise the Waddle of Marseilles.

I know. This was because the England team's style of play is completely different. Me, I was the same. But the English play long balls and use zonal marking. The French, they play football... The British style does not suit you? I prefer to play as at Marseilles. It is less physical and more technical and corresponds to my qualities. You were not given a very big role to play in Italy... Especially in the first round,

because I had to play deeper and that is not my style. Against Belgium in the second phase, I was a little more free and I was very happy.

Why this freedom?

It was Bobby Robson who asked me to move about in this way. I was less restrained. There were fewer problems.

Why did you take so few risks?

Was this an idea of Robson's?

Yes, perhaps. Theoretically, I was able to do what I wanted, but in our system of play it was difficult to take chances. At Marseilles I do not have to defend, I am free.

Do you prefer playing for Marseilles rather than for England?

I like to play for England. It is a great honour every time. But, tactically, the system used by Marseilles suits me better. When you play in a team where there are players such as Mozer, Amoros, Francescoli and the others, all, technically, among the best in the world, it is fantastic. In France, one does not hit long balls up field. It is a style of football that has advantages for players like me or like Barnes.

Will Chris Waddle find himself



COMMENT

CHRIS WADDLE

again in the French champion- ship?

At Marseilles, no problem. You talk of a defensive World Cup. Must we modify the tactics or the rules to return to an attacking game?

Certainly, one hopes that tactics will evolve. But I think that the rules must also change. If one did away with the offside rule, that football would be more open. In the national championships — okay. But at the level of a tournament like the World Cup, one wants to lose and everyone adopts defensive tactics. One rarely sees more than a few shots from a distance. Inevitably, the number of goals has diminished because on the pitch it is easier to destroy than to create.

Does the new offside rule seem to go in the right direction?

I don't know. I am worried that there will still be problems. The linesmen have to pay more attention and decisions will probably be discussed more.

The England team reached the semi-finals but was not always convincing...

Indeed, we did not play as well as we could have done. In the first round, we did not match the standards set by West Germany, Italy or Belgium. But we finished very strongly. We demonstrated the present potential of English football.

Which match was the most difficult?

The one against Cameroon. It was physically very hard because we had little of the ball.

And the best match?

The semi-final against West Ger-

many and the match against Belgium. I would like to say that the day of the incident between West Germans and Yugoslavians there were no Englishmen in Milan.

But you cannot excuse the English hooligans.

Never, during this World Cup, did you see the English alone breaking things or fighting with the police. Each time there were other hooligans, Italians, Germans, Dutch, who came to confront them. Today ours have such a reputation that they are provoked everywhere.

The English press has been very harsh with us.

Before the start of the tournament, they did not like the team, nor its way of playing or its composition.

Now they hear praise upon us. Is it not similar everywhere? But certain English journalists will write anything. Result: the majority of the players do not talk to them.

Is this true in your case?

Yes, with some of the journalists.

It has unified us. This has made us

mentally stronger. But I believe that something has not been right for a long time between the English press and us.

How do you expect me to collaborate with them?

Does this represent your view of most journalists?

Nearly all, because nearly all were against us.

Even the more serious, like The Times, The Independent or The Guardian?

Yes, it was not so much those such as The Times but seven or eight of the others, perhaps more, did work against us.

Is it very different to what happens in France?

Yes, the French press at least tries to make constructive criticism. Some of the things that the English write my little girl would be able to write.

Certain players nevertheless have exclusive contracts.

This is true. I have a contract with The Sun.

How does the team react to all these attacks?

It has unified us. This has made us mentally stronger. But I believe that something has not been right for a long time between the English press and us.

RUGBY UNION

Hull given a chance against Argentina after nervous wait

From DAVID HANNS IN BUENOS AIRES

ENGLAND will spend an anxious weekend here, partly because they are keen to beat the Buenos Aires selection they play today at Vélez Sarsfield, the stadium where a week ago they lost the opening match of their Argentine tour to Banco Nación, and partly to see how their injury problems are resolved.

An x-ray examination of Simon Hodgkinson's wrist indicated no break and the full back is hopeful that he will be able to resume normal service early next week. However, David Pears, the stand-off half, has a tender calf muscle as a legacy of Wednesday's game against Tucumán and the management remains in close contact with Twickenham in case a replacement should be required.

It now appears unlikely that Rob Andrew would be able to get time from work to assist the party. Jonathan Callard, the Bath full back is among the possibilities. In the meantime Pears remains in today's XV but as full back where he has

played very little rugby at senior level, and Paul Hull becomes the focus of attention as he plays his first match on the tour at stand-off.

Hull, aged 22, has had a nervous fortnight awaiting his debut and has seen as clearly as anyone the need to develop the back play more than has been the case so far. He has a reputation as a runner of the ball though Will Carling, the captain, has been impressed with his kicking in training: a judicious mixture of the two is required today against a selection including none of the Argentine national squad, but two of the Banco forwards, Rodolfo Etchegoyen and Pablo Di Nisio, successors

to Graham Carling and that, in other circumstances, the prospective international XV might have been aired today, but that is clearly not the case. However, another good match by Jason Leonard at loose-head prop and Dean Ryan as flanker could well earn them first caps in a week's time.

BUENOS AIRES SELECTION: G Arguello, G Jorge, H García Simón, E Latorre, G Escamez, L Arribalzaga, A Zárate (captain), L Lombera, A Gómez, H Balotra, A Urdaneta, G Gómez, R Etchegoyen, R Ezcurra, P Di Nisio.

ENGLAND XV: D Pears (Harrowgate), N Hedges (Orrell), W Carling (Harrowgate), C Callard (Bath), J Leonard (Harrowgate), J Wilson (Harrowgate), P Hull (Bath), S Hill (Bath), J Leonard (Saracens), J Oliver (Northampton), V Ubogu (Bath), D Ryan (Wasps), H (Bath), D Gandy (Preston), D Green (Gateshead), D Millard (Worcester), D Egerton (Bath). Reference: E Skar (Buenos Aires).

In prone position for a tilt at the target

MARC ASPLAND



On the double: cadets in action during the public schools rifle shooting competition at Bisley's centenary meeting yesterday

Aiming for gold at Bisley

By REX BELLAMY

OUR golf professional has forgotten to advocate shooting (the firearms variety). Ursula Powell says that after a fortnight at Bisley in July her golf improves so much that, come August or September, her handicap is reduced. She puts it down to concentration that demanded on the range: ruts off on the course.

John Powell, her husband, was the 1967 Queen's Prize winner and is now a gunsmith at Reigate. The modern match rifle, he suggests, is like a sophisticated sniping rifle. "We're hitting the equivalent of a man's chest at 1,200 yards — and we're disappointed if we miss."

"Let's say a dinner plate," interjects John Hissey, a retired insurance broker, who has been shooting at Bisley since 1945. Shooters are touchy about even oblique reminders of the incurable effect of shooting for real. It is a coincidence, rather than a consequence, that the immediate environment is renowned for cemeteries.

It is estimated that, after angling, shooting is Britain's second most popular participant sport. "It isn't the rich man's sport a lot of people think it is," Powell says. Potential newcomers can join a club and borrow all they need. After that they can get a firearms certificate and invest about £250 in second-hand equipment or about £1,500 in a new rifle, "spotting" telescope and stand and car mount.

Bisley's resident expert in all this is Roger Millard, who manages the on-site gunsmiths, Fulton's. In the workshop ("the engine room") are five special centenary rifles, a limited edition selling at £1,400 each. "We do a good target rifle for just under £1,000," Millard says.

The heavily up-marketed sponsors of this centenary event include Land Rover Ltd, two investment companies (Globe Investments and Save and Prosper), two banks (Barclays and Coutts), and Fairfield, "specialist caterers to independent schools". The money goes to the sport as stand.

Out front, in the shop, is a jocular notice reading "Rifle shooters get a bang out of life". They certainly do. The echoing gunfire at Bisley is somewhat odds with the lazy, hazy heat of bright summer days on a vast, open expanse of beflagged, heathery common and meadow.

At the moment, the scene is busy with tents, caravans, improvised clothes lines, snack bars, and ice-cream vans. Busy, too, with shooters: many in uniform, others in whatever makes sense and feels comfortable. We are in the midst of Bisley's most important fortnight of the year, its culmination the award of the Queen's Prize.

Actually, prizes: £250 (unchanged since the original 1860 meeting on Wimbledon Common); the National Rifle Association's gold medal and gold badge; and a signed, framed portrait of the Queen. Moreover, while the band plays *See The Conquering Hero Comes*, the winner is carried round the camp in a sedan chair, stopping for a drink at every club.

The difference, this year, is that Bisley is celebrating its centenary. Queen Victoria fired the first shot (by remote control via a silken cord) at Wimbledon in 1860, 17 years before the first tennis championships. Suburban development, plus a need for expansion because of the increasing range of firearms induced the NRA to move across Surrey to Bisley, in 1890.

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These sport's disciplined military routes helped to explain why it remains genteel. Mostly, anyway. Competitors on the match rifle range are allowed a preliminary free shot, into the stop butt rather than the target, to "foul" the barrel — to warm it up, so to speak, for subsequent demands on pin-point precision. This free shot is preceded by a range officer's formal announcement: "Gentlemen, you may now blow off."

A whole — improving ranges and other facilities, and supporting overseas teams — rather than to prize-winners.

Ronnie Constant, commercial manager of the NRA, hopes to secure continuing sponsorship and to develop out-of-season use of the camp's ranges and accommodation. "The potential is enormous," he says, "but I would not do anything that would detract from the tradition of Bisley and the sport in general — anything that would detract from the shooting, which is what it's all about."

Only one woman has won the Queen's Prize: Marjorie Foster, from the Women's Legion of Motor Drivers, in 1930. But inside the camouflage uniforms at Bisley are many sharp-eyed young women from the cadet corp of co-educational schools. Yes, shooting is for both sexes and, for that matter, almost every segment of society. "Only at Bisley", Hissey says, "would you find a field marshal chatting to a private without either knowing the others rank".

Well, that happens in golf, too, but the "only" is a permissible exaggeration. Shooting does attract a cross-section of society and has a marked air of camaraderie and mutual aid based on a common enthusiasm.

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Spartans court success

By RICHARD WETHERELL

THE semi-finalists in the Coca-Cola League play-offs (formerly the NDMAs) were decided last weekend. Glasgow Lions beat the Bonham-Bobcat 33-0 and will meet the Manchester Spartans, who overcame the Leeds Cougars 45-36. The other semi-final will be between the Birmingham Bulls and the Northants Storm.

Terry Smith, who coaches the Spartans, went to court two days before the game against the Cougars, and not only gained a reprieve from a suspension handed out by a disciplinary committee, but also won the right to play at home, overturning another NDMAs decision.

On the field, the Spartans relied on their quarterback, Hazen Choules, running back, Paul Bailey, and wide receiver, Alan Brown, to guide them through.

The Lions quarterback, Mike Hasskamp, completed 21 of 29 passes, but the defense kept the Bobcat so quiet, their total offensive yardage was restricted to only 53.

The Bulls were unconvining in their 21-12 win over the Brighton 852's, in which their running back, Trevor Cardy, rushed for 99 yards on nine carries and Tony Buford caught five passes for 104 yards and one touchdown.

The Storm, the southern conference champions, shared ten touchdowns and 74 points with the Leicester Panthers, winning 44-30. A dominant rushing attack accounted for 310 out of their 434 total yards, and four players scored rushing touchdowns. The highlight, however, was a Storm club record 75-yard scoring pass from Mark Van Allen to Kevin Mills.

FISHING

Wiltshire water fears

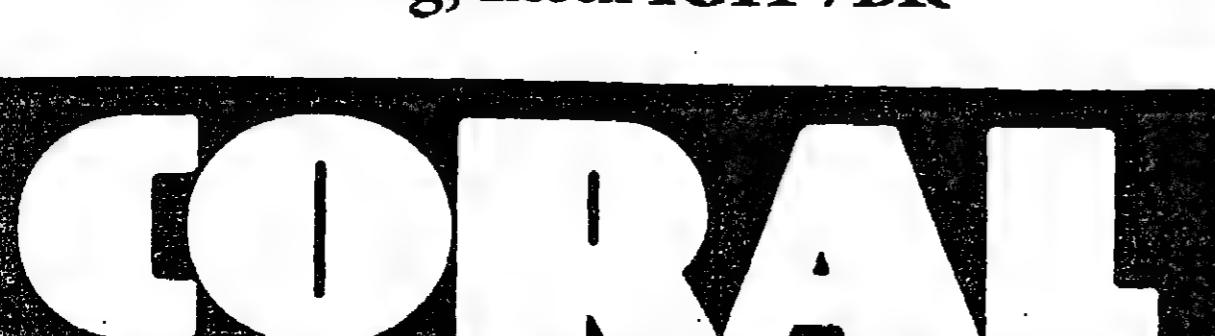
By CONRAD VOSS BARK

FISHERMEN on the Wylye in Wiltshire are concerned about new borehole work by Wessex Water in the Cudford area, near Heytesbury, which is taking place in an effort to meet growing industrial and domestic demands for water.

The Wylye, a famous trout stream, is one of 40 rivers in England and Wales where water levels have diminished dramatically during periods of drought, because underground springs that feed them have been tapped by water companies to augment the public supply as cheaply as they can. We're worried that they'll be taking a reasonable amount of water this autumn, but in a couple of years' time, they may be taking three times as much.

The National Rivers Authority, created last year to guard the water environment, which includes river flows, has problems in trying to improve management.

Most of the chalk streams in southern England have suffered from low flows during the drought this year and, particularly the smaller rivers, including the Piddle, the Allen and the Wallop Brook.



The Times reports on the second round of the 119th Open Championship at St Andrews

A Scot trying in the wilderness

By PATRICIA DAVIES

GOLF is the only game in town in St Andrews at all times, not just during the Open, so Sam Torrance has an awesome burden to bear over the next two days.

The affable man from Largs is the Great Scottish Hope after a round of 70, two under par, yesterday took him to a total of six under, the best start he has had in the 19 championships he has played in.

It is too early to suggest that Torrance will be the first native-born Scot to win the title at St Andrews since Jock Hutchison, by then a naturalised American, in 1921.

Torrance is, after all, only 51st on the Volvo Order of Merit and has not won a tournament since the Italian Open in 1987. His best finish in the Open is fifth, in 1981, but he has started playing his best golf for some time, having obeyed his father's forceful instructions to work harder.

He had hopes of a really low score yesterday morning until the wind changed. "I don't know what the hell I've done wrong," he said. "We played the front nine into the wind and the back nine into the wind. It switched round completely and I had to work like mad on the way home."

Torrance had birdie chances at the 1st and 2nd but dropped a shot when he took three putts at the second. The crowd sagged a little but perked up when he had four birdies in a row to share the lead briefly with Payne Stewart, on seven under par.

Torrance had three at the 3rd and 4th to go to five under. He sank his five-foot putt at the latter seconds after Jamie Spence, still unknown and unremarked, on the 14th, sharing the green with the 4th, moved to five under with a birdie of his own. The difference in their receptions was audible.

Torrance hit a wedge to four feet for a birdie four at the 5th, undisturbed by Jack Nicklaus prowling about the 13th, which shares the double green, and the Scot then sank a six-footer at the 6th, to share the lead with Stewart, who was dropping a shot, in full view of Torrance, on the adjoining 12th.

Scotland sighed when Torrance skied his drive at the 7th and dropped a shot. He then had to set about the really hard work of coming home in 36, level par, and managed it by leaning heavily on his long putter, sometimes literally as well as figuratively.

At the 10th, where he was



THE OPEN

ST ANDREWS

only feet short of the green with his drive, his chip ran 30 feet past, down a slope, but Torrance got down in two putts. As he stood on the 12th tee, he got the thumbs up from Mark James, who was perambulating down the 7th, but such moral support was no use to Torrance when he found his drive in a huge divot.

His three-iron hack out ran

over the green and he took an extra hack for revenge, but saved his par with two putts from some 60 feet. He dropped a shot at the 13th but the putting magic did not desert him altogether and twice more he got down in two from the 45-to-50-foot range.

However, his most notable saving putt was at the 14th, where he holed a 20-footer for his par five after driving into a little pot bunker, one of The Beardies.

"I should have gone further

left off the tee," Torrance said, "but they've built a big stand which is on the line I reckon you need to take, to be safe, into the wind. Next time I'll hit it over their heads." The stand, he calculated, was 220 yards away, so perhaps the spectators in the top row should be issued with hard hats.

Yet another delay and distraction came when he was about to putt on the 17th green. Suddenly, all eyes were on the not insubstantial figure of Chris Patton, the United States amateur champion, who had driven into the Swilcan Burn at the first and was in the process of lowering his 300-odd-lb bulk into the water, trousers tucked into socks.

Everyone watched

mesmerised as he took a swipe and landed the ball on the green to huge acclamation. Even Bob Charles, one of Patton's partners, smiled.

Torrance took two putts for his par at the Road Hole, then did his own bit of grandstanding at the 18th, holing from 18 feet for a birdie three. There was a sizeable cheer, even though the stand was three-quarters empty, but if he does the same on Sunday, and it matters. Jock Hutchison, him-

self will hear the roar.

ARNOLD Palmer had an unhappy Open at Royal Troon last year. He shot 81 and 82, missed the cut by a distance and was hugely embarrassed. He said earlier this week that the humiliation he felt after that experience meant that this would be his last Open, and after a 73 on Thursday, his second round yesterday might have been the last chance anyone would have of watching one of the greatest players in the world's greatest golf tournament.

If we thought he would leave us without a final hurrah, we should all have known better.

Because, although at the age of 60 his powers on the course have naturally declined, his huge pride and performance remains unbroken by the passage of time. The result was a 71, one under par. It was a good round by anybody's standards, and there are plenty of players of less

than half Palmer's age who would have been satisfied with it. But for a man who might have been dropped down in the dregs of it all, it was remarkable.

All the elements of a virtuous Palmer performance were there. That great flailing extravaganza of a swing, the weather-beaten features betraying every shade of emotion, that familiar, slightly knock-kneed putting style. In those respects at least he was the same man who first played in the Open Championship 30 years ago this year, on this very course, and the same man who won it in 1961 and 1962.

And how he loves the smell of

the greasepaint and the roar of the crowd. Wherever he trod there was applause and more applause, and he milked the last drop. Like an old-style vaudevillian, not a trick was missed.

What of Arnie's Army? Well,

their numbers are a little de-

pleted these days — no more

than a couple of regiments. But

there are still plenty of foot soldiers out there who are still prepared to march their hearts out to the tune of the silver-haired general at their head.

Palmer did not let his people

down. He got them in the right mood with a ten-foot putt for a birdie at the 1st, but had them groaning when he missed one from 18 inches to drop a shot at the 3rd. Somehow, the pitch to two feet by Gary Player, his old friend and rival, who on another day would have been the star turn himself, was no more than incidental to the main action.

On the 6th he was nearly

decapitated by a wayward drive

from the opposite direction.

Palmer ducked, whirled, and

sent an aggrieved plane down to

the 13th tee, where Danny

Mijovic, an embarrassed Ca-

nadian wavered his apologies. If

the Army could have got at him

it might have been a dis-

membered Canadian.

On the short 8th he got a

birdie from ten feet, and for the

second time in his round imme-

diately gave the shot back

when he three-putted the next.

His third and final birdie of the

day came on the 15th with

another ten-foot putt. He joined

the Road Hole beautifully and

after putting his second shot

into the Valley of Sin on the last

putted up to a couple of inches

to complete 36 holes on 144,

level par.

The Army loved it. The other

ranks in the stand adored it.

Their hero had done himself

good, and they were beside

themselves. They did not want

him to leave, and he did not

want to go.

WHATSOEVER

Today: Warm and dry, sunny

with a light breeze.

Tomorrow: Dry, sunny

with a light

wind.

TELEVISION

Today: BBC1

12.30pm, BBC2

5.45pm and

10.45pm.

Tomorrow: BBC1

12.30pm and 12.30pm.

BBC2

1.25pm-3.30pm and

9.45-10.30pm.

BBC3

1.25pm-3.30pm and

11pm-11.30pm.

Europe: BBC1

12.30pm and

11pm-11.30pm.

Europe: BBC2

1.25pm-3.30pm and

11pm-11.30pm.

Europe: BBC3

1.25pm-3.30pm and

11pm-11.30pm.

Europe: BBC4

1.25pm-3.30pm and

11pm-11.30pm.

Europe: BBC5

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11pm-11.30pm.

Europe: BBC6

1.25pm-3.30pm and

11pm-11.30pm.

Europe: BBC7

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Europe: BBC8

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Europe: BBC18

1.25pm-3.30pm and

11pm-11.30pm.

Europe: BBC19

1.25pm-3.30pm and

11pm-11.30pm.

Europe: BBC20

1.25pm-3.30pm and

11pm-11.30pm.

Europe: BBC21

Doug Sanders looks back at the chance of a lifetime he missed at St Andrews

Two putts from the Open title

By BOB DRUM

(Former golf correspondent of the Pittsburgh Press)

ST ANDREWS may be renowned as the home of golf, but for Doug Sanders, it will always be remembered as the place where he missed the chance of a lifetime.

Twenty years ago, Sanders arrived at St Andrews as an outsider for the Open Championship. In 1966, he had finished second to Jack Nicklaus in the Open at Muirfield, but since then, injuries and fast living had taken their toll.

Nevertheless, in 1970, he reached the 72nd green with two putts for the title. His first effort finished short, leaving him with a three-foot downhill putt, still for the championship. He missed it, and went on to lose the play-off with Nicklaus by a stroke.

Sanders was recently asked if he ever thought about the putt that lost the Open. "I never stopped thinking about it, even after I lost the play-off," he said. "I replayed the shot mentally and never once missed."

"Actually, I never should have had to make that putt," he said. "I pitched the ball to the 18th green and that was the wrong shot. In the play-off, I had almost the identical shot and played a bump and knocked the ball four feet from the hole. That night, I slept well — I made out that I had birdied the hole the day before and won the Open."

"Every time the British Open from St Andrews is on television, I replay the putt for four days. I never miss it. But it's just as well, I may have had to change my lifestyle. Imagine me in a bowler hat and a tweed coat playing in tournaments. I would have been locked up."

Sanders had dived into the winner's circle with a splash. As an amateur, he beat all the professionals in the Canadian Open in 1956. As a professional, he had a distinguished career that featured



Sitting comfortably: Doug Sanders, who missed his chance to win the Open in 1970, at home in Houston, Texas

one of the worst-looking swings ever to appear on a golf course.

It was said that you could stand a couple of feet behind Sanders and not be hit by his backswing. His club did not go back more than hip-high.

But Sanders was oblivious of criticism about his golf game, or his personal life. "If

those guys loafed with me after dark, they not only could not play, they wouldn't show up," he said. "In fact, I have a helluva time myself."

Sanders had one habit that none of his peers could denigrate: he surrounded himself with beautiful women. He tried marriage a couple of times, but unlike his golf swing, matrimony did

not work until he met his present wife.

Jimmy Demaret was the first golfer to wear outlandish colours, but Sanders took the idea to extremes. His colours were loud and clear, and even his socks and shoes matched his outfit.

Sanders has his own US PGA Senior Tour tournament

in Houston and, this year, President Bush was a participant in the pro-am.

Wherever he is this week, Sanders will not regret his lifestyle and his days as the rollicking, overdressed golfer with a swing that is not taught by any teacher. But he can't help remembering that short putt that cost him enduring fame.

YACHTING

Old rivals shape up for rematch

By BARRY PICKTHALL

FOUR former Whitbread maxis head a 63-strong fleet that sets out from Brighton this morning to compete in the inaugural race to Porto Sherry in Spain. Prime interest in this 1,100-mile event for the Brent Walker Cup is the re-match between Pierre Fehlmann's Swiss sloop, Merit, which finished third in the Whitbread, and Britain's less than successful armed services entry, Saquoia British Defender.

Now in the capable hands of Harold Cudmore, this Martin Francis design which suffered a succession of breakages culminating in her dismasting during the last stage of the race across the Atlantic from Fort Lauderdale, has been completely revamped for this new challenge.

Renamed Brent Walker, the

Eurosia moves ahead

PORTO Cervo, Italy — Maurizio Pelaschier and his former Italian America's Cup crew, sailing aboard the Swan 46 Eurogia, led yesterday's shortened off-shore race from start to finish to strengthen their hold on the RORC Swan world championship which ends here today (Barry Pickthall writes).

Only Roger Egli's 53ft Chacaboo, second yesterday, remains in contention, after Kaurnio Alberti's Swan 47 was penalized 20 seconds for cheating during Thursday's race when she finished second. Alberti and her crew were lucky not to have been disqualified, not only from the race but the series after being found guilty of moving their heavy anchor aft and removing

the anchor chain from the boat completely to lessen weight and improve their performance.

• KIEL: Chris Dickson, of New Zealand, now sailing for the Nippon Ocean Racing Club of Japan to whom he is contracted for the next America's Cup, showed why he is ranked the No. 1 match racer in the world by yesterday winning the first of the Baltic Cup Grand Prix (Malcolm McKenna writes).

Dickson was the only international skipper not to fall victim to the homegrown German sailors who made the forward, Gavril Balint, of Steaua Bucharest.

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ers, but only one of the names that have been quoted is right." Palace have spent £450,000 on the Charlton Athletic defender, John Humphrey, and £10,000 on the Watford midfield player, Glynn Hodges, this summer.

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CYCLING

LeMond to catch Italian in time trial

From JOHN WILCOCKSON, LIMOGES, FRANCE

ASSUMING that Greg LeMond races according to his normal form today, he will become only the sixth cyclist in history to win a third Tour de France. To achieve this distinction, the 29-year-old American has to beat Claudio Chiappucci, of Italy, by at least five seconds in the penultimate stage, a 28.5-mile time trial around the Lac de Vassivière, 35 miles east of Limoges.

Chiappucci, aged 27, was one of four riders allowed to gain more than 10 minutes in the first stage of the race. The other three men dropped out of the overall picture during the first two weeks, but Chiappucci rode strongly in the Alps and took over the yellow jersey at Villard-de-Lans, nine days ago.

Since then, the Italian has conceded all but five seconds of the 7min 27sec lead he held over LeMond at Villard. Riding more strongly than in any of his previous four Tours de France, LeMond has emerged as the dominating character of this year's event.

However, when asked yesterday by how much he expected to beat Chiappucci in the time trial, LeMond would not commit himself. Referring to his final showdown with Laurent Fignon, of France, last year – in which LeMond came from 50 seconds behind to win by eight seconds – the blond-headed American replied: "Fignon made the mistake last year of saying that 20 seconds was a big enough lead for him to keep the yellow jersey. I'm not making any predictions. I'll just ride the time trial to the best of my ability."

Even though LeMond has yet to show his best time trialing form in this Tour – he finished fifth in each of the previous tests – he finished ahead of Chiappucci on each occasion. LeMond also has a further psychological advantage over his Italian rival in that he won the last time trial

to be held on the Vassivière circuit in the 1985 Tour.

It is possible that, after wearing the yellow jersey for a week, Chiappucci will crack today. If that happens, it is possible that he could even lose second place to either Erik Breukink or Pedro Delgado, who are respectively 3min 21sec and 3min 34sec behind Chiappucci on overall time.

With the race leaders focusing their attention on the time trial, there was another chance for the also-rans to grab some attention yesterday. And, on yet another day of 90 temperatures, Guido Bontempi earned Italy's fifth stage win of the race.

Bontempi, who won three stages of the 1986 Tour, has lost much of his sprinting speed that earned him his previous successes. As a result, he tried a surprise tactic – a solo attack – when he found himself with a breakaway group of 19 riders, three minutes ahead of the pack, with 20 miles of the 114-mile stage remaining.

The chase was taken up by Dag-Otto Lauritzen, the Norwegian champion, but he was just unable to catch the 30-year-old Italian. Six other riders came up to Lauritzen, including his Canadian team mate Steve Bauer. But Bontempi was by now more than a minute clear, and he rode strongly into Limoges to earn a well-merited victory.

Lauritzen again broke clear of the others, to take second place. After congratulations from his 7-Eleven team manager, a disappointed Lauritzen replied: "But it wasn't first."

Today, LeMond is likely to be first, and should ride into Paris tomorrow to take his third Tour de France title.

• PARIS: A police brigadier, Christian Villenueve, aged 44, died yesterday after being struck by a car while directing traffic during the Tour de France. (AP reports).

TOUR DE FRANCE DETAILS

NINETEENTH STAGE (Grenoble to Briançon): 113 miles. 1. C. Chiappucci (It), 4:59. 45sec; 2. D.O. Lauritzen (Nor), 4:59. 51sec; 3. G. Bontempi (It), 4:59. 54sec; 4. R. Gresini (It), 4:59. 55sec; 5. N. Iglesias (Spa); 6. P. Delgado (Spa); 7. E. Breukink (Neth); 8. G. Bontempi (It); 9. D. Gresini (It); 10. E. Chiappucci (It); 11. A. Rominger (Switz); 12. G. Bontempi (It); 13. D. Gresini (It); 14. S. Bauer (Can); 15. P. Delgado (Spa); 16. E. Chiappucci (It); 17. G. Bontempi (It); 18. G. Bontempi (It); 19. G. Bontempi (It); 20. G. Bontempi (It); 21. G. Bontempi (It); 22. G. Bontempi (It); 23. G. Bontempi (It); 24. G. Bontempi (It); 25. G. Bontempi (It); 26. G. Bontempi (It); 27. G. Bontempi (It); 28. G. Bontempi (It); 29. G. Bontempi (It); 30. G. Bontempi (It); 31. G. Bontempi (It); 32. G. Bontempi (It); 33. G. Bontempi (It); 34. G. Bontempi (It); 35. G. Bontempi (It); 36. G. Bontempi (It); 37. G. Bontempi (It); 38. G. Bontempi (It); 39. G. Bontempi (It); 40. G. Bontempi (It); 41. G. 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On the eve of the world show jumping championships in Stockholm, Jenny MacArthur talks to Michael and John Whitaker

Brothers in harness to meet challenge

JOHN and Michael Whitaker, the most successful pair of show-jumping brothers since the d'Inzeos in the 1960s, face one of the toughest challenges of their careers when they compete in the British team at the World Equestrian Games in Stockholm, which open on Tuesday.

A record 16 teams are contesting the gruelling three-round show jumping championships. Britain's task is to reverse the placings at the last world championships, in 1986, when they took the silver medal behind the United States.

The Whitakers as well as forming the backbone of the team — as they have done at the last three European championships, winning the gold medal at each — carry Britain's hopes for individual honours.

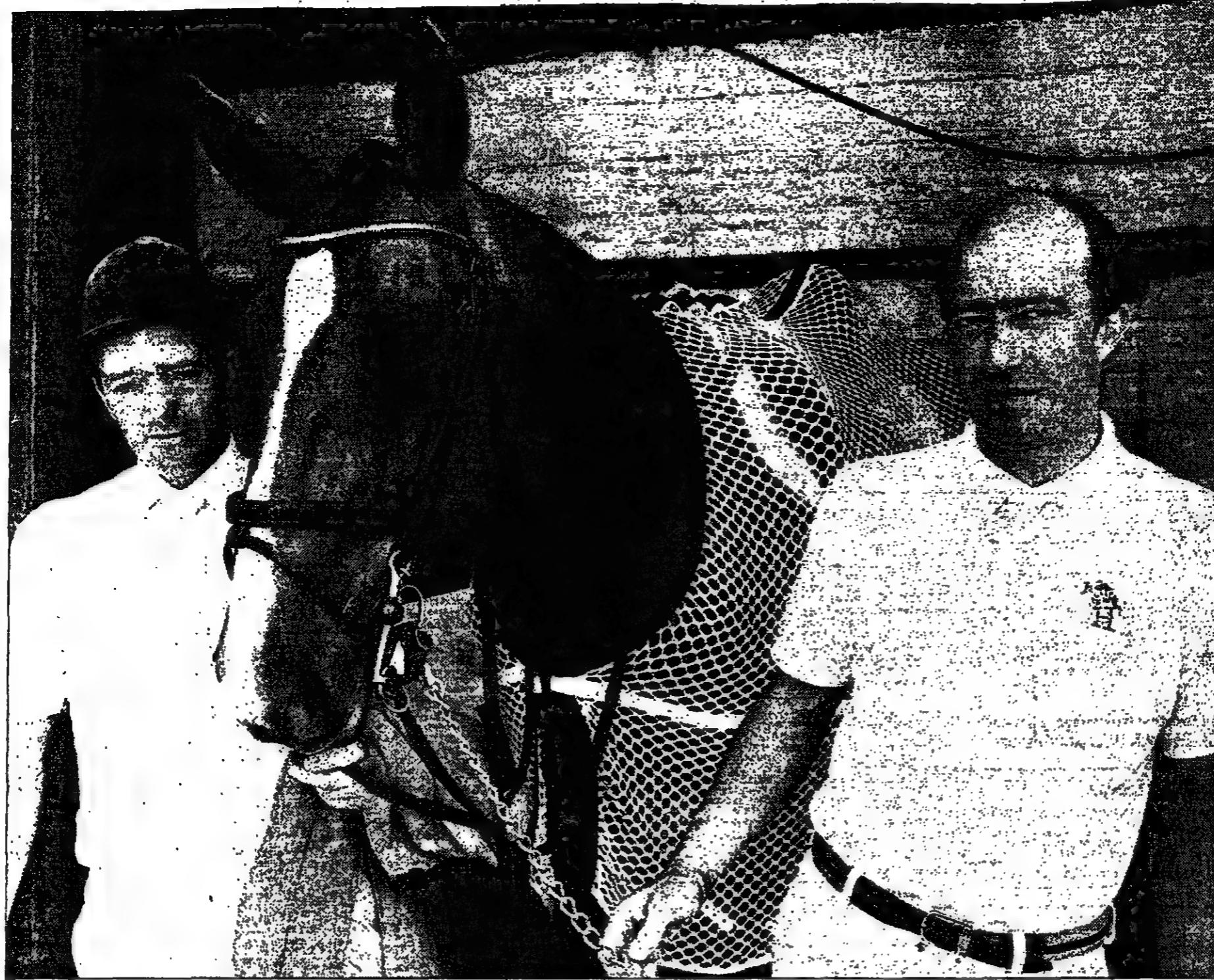
John, the reigning European champion and the holder of the World Cup, will start as the favourite with Henderson Milton. Michael, riding Henderson Monsanta, may prove one of his brother's main rivals if he repeats the form he showed at the European championships last year in Rotterdam, where he took the silver medal behind John.

If either succeeds in becoming world champion, the other will be delighted. Rivalry is strictly confined to the arena. Talking in Dublin earlier this week about their careers, John, who, aged 35, is five years older than Michael, said: "Even though I won in Rotterdam, I was disappointed for Michael." For his younger brother, who came close to winning the gold, "it was a bitter disappointment... but if I was going to be beaten by anyone, I would rather it was by John."

Few would doubt their sincerity. In a sport which has its fair share of dissemblers, the Whitaker brothers' fair-mindedness and courteous manner would single them out even without their superior skills in the saddle.

The similarities do not end there: physically, both are slight, riding at under ten-and-a-half stone; neither speaks more than is necessary; and both have a blunt Yorkshire sense of humour. They have also both married within the sport. Michael to the former Belgian show jumper, Veronique Vastapane, and John to Claire Barr, whose father, Malcolm Barr, owned John's former top horse, Ryan's Son.

Though the brothers share the same will to win, they achieve their successes with very different styles. To watch John in the ring is to see show jumping at its gentlest, but most effective. "He's a quieter rider than me," Michael reflected. "He's very controlled and steady. I'm a forward rider." John confirmed this, saying: "Michael is



Double act: show jumping's most successful brothers, John and Michael Whitaker, with their horse, Henderson Didi, completing their preparations in Ireland

better on a horse that needs pushing on — I'm better on one where you just sit."

Both have found appropriate horses. With Henderson Milton, John has already forged a near-legendary partnership. In the four years they have been together, they have won nearly £300,000, which is a record in the sport. Although Milton is now aged 12, John believes he is still improving. "I feel I've got him more consistent this year, which I am pleased

about," he said. "He has only had two fences down since the World Cup in April."

Although Stockholm will be the best chance John is likely to have of winning a world championship, nothing shakes his placid outlook. "I'm treating the world championships as they come," he said. "If you set your sights too high each time, you get disappointed.

Horses are not machines, you have to try and get them right physically and mentally."

Both brothers have had their share of disappointments. For John, his last-minute exclusion from the 1976 Olympic team with Ryan's Son still rankles. Twelve years later, he was similarly frustrated when Henderson Milton's owners, Mr and Mrs Tom Bradley, declined to let the horse go to the Seoul Olympics.

For Michael, few disappointments can compare with Los Angeles in 1984 when, riding Amanda, he had the individual

gold medal in sight until the horse suddenly stopped jumping in the final round. It was a disaster, however, which his mother, Enid Whitaker, puts into perspective. "What was marvellous was that Michael ever got Amanda to Los Angeles, she was a difficult horse."

The Irish-bred Monsanta, who Michael rides in Stockholm, is also a difficult horse, but responds well to Michael's aggressive style of riding. "Michael will never settle for second place," Enid

Whitaker, who taught the boys to ride on the old milk pony at the family farm near Huddersfield, said. "He always tries to beat the time however impossible." It is a policy which has stood him in good stead, most notably last year in Calgary, where he and Henderson Monsanta won the £90,000 Calgary grand prix, the richest prize in showjumping.

The brothers' adaptability should help them if they reach the final round for the individual

JOHN WHITAKER

Born: Aug 5 1955. Lives: Upper Cumberworth, West Yorkshire. Married to Claire (née Barr) with two daughters and a son. Major successes: 1976 Team bronze. 1978 Team gold. 1980 Team and individual silver medal; alternative Olympics. 1982 Team bronze, world championships. 1983 Team and individual silver, European championships. 1984 Team silver, Olympic Games (Jill Ryan's Son). 1985 Team gold and individual bronze, European championships. 1986 Team and individual silver, European championships. 1988 Team and individual gold, European championships. 1990: Team and individual gold, European championships. 1990: Winner of the World Cup (Milan).

MICHAEL WHITAKER

Born: March 17 1960. Lives: Kettleshulme, Cheshire. Married to Veronique (née Vastapane). Major successes: 1976 Team bronze. 1978 Team gold. 1980 Team gold. 1982 Team bronze; alternative Olympics (Warren Point). 1984 Team silver, world championships (Warren Point). 1987: Team gold; European championships (Amanda). 1988 Team gold and individual silver, European championships (Amanda). 1989: Grand Prix (Calgary). 1990: National champion (My Monsieur).

world championships title, where the top four riders have to ride each other's horses. The controversial formula, which proved the undoing of Pierre Durand at the last world championships, holds no fears for either brother. "We've ridden different horses all our lives," John said. "There wasn't much money around when we were children, and we just had to accept rides on anything."

Before that final round on August 5, the last day of the Games, there are three tough competitions to be completed, including a two-round Nations Cup event to decide the team competition. John is optimistic about the chances of the team in which David Broome, the 1970 world champion, and Nick Skelton make up the four. "We all know each other well and our personalities work well together," he explained. "David is the most experienced and helps us all. Nick's the more flamboyant one. Michael and I calm him down, but then we can sharpen up a little. I think we're a good team ... a confident one."

For Ronnie Massarella, the team manager, it is the presence of the two Whitaker boys which gives him confidence. "I wouldn't want to be going to Stockholm without them. They have the flair, the magic, the knowledge and all the capabilities in the world. They're the most level-headed chaps for the job."

Joining them in the box will be Jack Baister, another who knows what modern players go through, thanks to being secretary of the Cricketers' Association, and Richie Benaud. They are likely to have a lot of fun to describe, something that should please Boycott and Gavaskar, with Tendulkar, aged 17, likely to command the attention, and Venkatesh, hoping to play his fourth Test match at Lord's, having scored centuries on each of his three.

Boycott and his colleagues will go a long way to rebuffing the theory that cricket is best enjoyed when watching the television and listening to the radio.

There are many who have been drawn to Channel 4's coverage of the Tour de France for the countryside and breathtaking views that are afforded from the mountain climbs. There are others who watch this astonishing piece of endurance — which is even more astonishing to those who, if they repeat themselves a bit, bear in mind one thing: they are from Yorkshire.

India's viewpoint will be put by another great opening batsman, Sunil Gavaskar, who beat Boycott's record for the number of Test match runs. His comments are rather like his batting. Safe and assured, he frequently fires off an unexpected shot that reaches the boundary.

The Tour ends on Sunday (Channel 4, 5.30pm) with the traditional invasion of Paris for the finish near the Champs Elysées with a mere 190-kilometre stage, a snap to these lads who have endured stages of 17 hours and more.

GLIDING

Wells returns to less familiar conditions

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MARTYN Wells, one of the British team in the recent Pre-Worlds Améridé in Minden, North Rhine-Westphalia, in his own familiar LS7 sailplane in the Standard Class Nationals at Booker, High Wycombe.

He is doubtless using the "micro" weather conditions of England compared to the "macro" scales of height and distance of the Sierra conditions which, ironically, are believed to provide Britons with marginal soaring experience to give them an edge against other nations, who are only used to the big-country environment.

The man to watch is Simon Lessing, aged 19, born in South Africa, who has been racing for the French club, Salou TC, of Avignon. Lessing has held a British passport for four years and this year has his first British race license. Throughout the season, he has been beating the best in Europe, and although he could qualify for the junior team, he is opting for the seniors.

The experience gained by British pilots at Minden in preparation for the 1991 world championships at the same site was expected, but none the less valuable, for the actual orienta-

Champagne day out at the home of British yachting

THE Times today presents a competition which offers the opportunity to win a day out at the Cowes Regatta on Saturday, August 11.

In conjunction with Champagne Mumm, the sponsors of the biennial Admiral's Cup series, we have a special prize for the winner and a companion: travel to and from Cowes, overnight accommodation on August 10 and 11, and a full



day of first-class hospitality at one of the great occasions of the British sporting summer. Our winner will enjoy a close-up view of the action

ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

ANSWERS

1. _____
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5. _____

CONDITION OF ENTRY: Employees (and their relatives) of Times Newspapers Ltd, Champagne Mumm or their agents are not eligible for entry. The Sports Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Britain's performance depends on appeal

By JANE WYATT

COLIN Moynihan, the minister for sport, attended a reception at the House of Commons last night for the launch of a £1 million appeal by the British Paralympic Association (BPA) for the 1992 Paralympics.

A figure of £700,000 is needed to send athletes to Barcelona and a further £300,000 for the winter events in Tignes and Albertville in February, 1992.

It such totals can be raised, the BPA is confident that Britain could improve on its performance in Seoul, where British athletes came third in the overall medal table, on very little funding, and behind far larger teams from the United States and West Germany.

The BPA co-ordinates British participation in the Paralympic Games by working closely with the seven national disability organisations and its able-bodied counterpart, the British Olympic Association.

The £1 million is needed, not only to transport about 300 athletes and support staff to the

Games, but to organise elite training for all the disabled group squads.

Dr Adrian Whiteside, the president of the BPA, acknowledged the difficult financial climate facing all fund-raisers, with many organisations seeking sponsorship.

He also recognised that disabled athletes do not have the public profile enjoyed by their able-bodied colleagues. He hoped businesses and individuals would welcome the opportunity to provide positive encouragement to dedicated sportsmen and women.

Dr Whiteside asked the press and television to do more to reflect the great commitment shown by leading disabled athletes, and upon the athletes themselves to be more self-publicising.

He said that, by encouraging elite sport, facilities at grassroots level would automatically be improved and higher standards would create incentives for more people to participate.

ONE of the finest moments in any sport takes place tomorrow at around 5.30pm at St Andrews. The winner of the 119th Open Championship will be acclaimed as he walks down the 18th fairway. No matter who is the favourite of the crowd, they will cheer. Best of all, the commentator will let the cheers do the talking for him.

Peter Alliss, for it will be he, leads the BBC team, which dominates the Grandstands of today (BBC1, 12.30) and tomorrow (BBC2, 1.25). Many consider Alliss the finest commentator at work today. While his colleagues, Alex Hay and Bruce Critchley, among others, provide a low-key style, Alliss leads them all with ease.

To enter, study the questions below, complete the entry form and send it to Champagne Mumm competition, Sports Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive by Monday, July 30. The winner will be the sender of the first entry drawn from those received by the closing date.

Despite retiring from playing the game before the big money arrived, Alliss sees it without the dreaded "Or course, the game's not as good as in my day" attitude. Save a few justified gripes at the slow play of the professionals, he is kind to them all and does not begrudge them their fortunes. The few words of criticism will be balanced with reassuring words to those whose poor putting matches his own.

Is it just coincidence that, with its slower pace of play and easily definable tactics, commentators who know when to talk and, probably most importantly of all on television, when to keep quiet. Or is it just the calibre of

movement owing to his moderation? In turn he has enlisted the help of show business friends to stage the opening gala. But he is keen to point out that the sporting achievements of the athletes should not be overshadowed by the glitz and glamour of the initial ceremony.

"Our theory is that you win by taking part, everyone gets a medal," he said. "But some of these athletes are still very good. The Special Olympic record holder in the high jump would have won gold in the 1990 Olympics. And if you see these people and the impact the Games have on them — the fact they've been there, they've won a medal — the effect is incredible."

Stevens believes that the main aim of the Games is public relations to break down the barriers of prejudice. "In America we have been working for 30 years educating people," he said. "In Europe the Games have only been going for 15 years and the attitudes are different. Public opinion is a hard thing to break down and our worst obstacle is lack of knowledge."

He admits he had little choice but to join the Special Olympics

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Breaking down the barriers

By ALICE RAMSAY

THE Duke of Edinburgh will open at Celtic Park, Glasgow, today the European Special Olympic Games for the mentally handicapped, the largest sporting event of its kind staged in Europe. About 2,500 athletes will take part. Coaches, carers and families will swell the number of visitors to 7,000. There will be show business personalities and other celebrities.

Getting to Glasgow is not been easy for them. The lack of a commercial sponsor has meant that each country has had to make its own travel arrangements. But such has been the response to the Special Olympics that help has been forthcoming. President Vaclav Havel made his own jet available to fly the Czechoslovak team to Scotland. In Poland, Lech Walesa organised the Polish air force to fly the athletes in, while the Soviet military has lent an aircraft to do the same for the contingent from the Soviet Union.

It is this sort of response that the Special Olympics movement is hoping to make use of to

TRIATHLON

Lessing is the man to watch in Dover event

By IAN SWEET

IAN Pettitt, the British Triathlon Association's new liaison officer and its first full-time employee, competes this weekend in his main race of the season, the Park Cycles Whitecliffs Triathlon, at Dover.

It is the first main selection race for the British teams competing in the European championships in Linz, Austria, and the subsequent world championships in Florida. In addition, she race over the Olympic distance — 1.5km swim, 40km cycle ride and 10km run — is in the national ranking series.

The man to watch is Simon Lessing, aged 19, born in South Africa, who has been racing for the French club, Salou TC, of Avignon. Lessing has held a British passport for four years and this year has his first British race license. Throughout the season, he has been beating the best in Europe, and although he could qualify for the junior team, he is opting for the seniors.

GLIDING

Wells returns to less familiar conditions

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

tion rather than all the second-hand wisdom of local and other visiting pilots.

All the Britons were this year using a curate's egg selection of locally begged, borrowed or purloined machines, considering the heavy expense of shipping their own gliders, which will be essential for the world championships next year.

It may be that Justin Wills, the 15m winner and Andy Davis, standard second after leading on the penultimate day, owe something of their success to using top-American pilots' personal machines (with their owners close by as ground crew). Wills, in leading pilot Doug Jacobs' LS6, and Davis, in John Boyd's Discus. This, however, was only practice for 1991. The experience gained is even more important than a place in this year's results.

On day three, Wills opted for and completed, 580km/100km more than others, but incurred a one-hour penalty because he was slowed by thermal decline.

University of Wales: Aberystwyth and Bangor degrees

Aberystwyth

Faculty of Arts
 BA (Joint Hons)
 Art History and Classical Studies
 Class II (W): F M G Taylor
 Art History and English
 Class II (W): S S Baker
 Art History and Philosophy
 Class II (W): F S A MacGregor
 Classical Studies and Education
 Class II (W): L Ward
 Classical Studies and Geography
 Class II (W): J Kovach
 Classical Studies and History
 Class II (W): D J M Eden
 Class II (W): Tony
 Drama and English
 Class II (W): D M J Black
 Art: A M Lawrence; A E Light
 Class II (W): M A Rankin; S C Smith
 Class II (W): D E M Dencik
 Feston

Drama and Music
 Class II (W): A L Hermann
 Drama and Philosophy
 Class II (W): A J Bond
 Class II (W): M J Davies
 French and Italian
 Class II (W): E V Arcuri

Economics and Welsh History
 Class II (W): O L Hughes
 Education and English
 Class II (W): C Blythe
 Education and Geography
 Class II (W): D J Dudson
 Education and History
 Class II (W): R Fletcher
 English and Art History
 Class II (W): K Sheldy

English and History
 Class II (W): H A Merson
 English and Music
 Class II (W): D R A Webb

English and Philosophy
 Class II (W): D J O' Donoghue

French and Drama
 Class II (W): R L Mernit

French and European Studies
 Class II (W): J A Astor; S A Hutchinson

French and German
 Class II (W): R S Thomas

French and Italian
 Class II (W): C H Edwards

French and Spanish
 Class II (W): E R Davies; S J E Pugh

French and M. A. Adams; J R Andrews; E I Moys; V Szalai

Geography and Art History
 Class II (W): S S Gleave

Geography and Politics
 Class II (W): J E L Hopper

German and Drama
 Class II (W): D N J Merritt

German and European Studies
 Class II (W): O E L Hopper; D A Stoker

German and French
 Class II (W): E M Anderson

German and Spanish
 Class II (W): J D Evans

Class II (W): A Baldwin

History and Art History
 Class II (W): L R Andrews

History and Education
 Class II (W): E M Parace

History and Geography
 Class II (W): T A McCamman

History and International Politics
 Class II (W): J A J Williams

History and Philosophy
 Class II (W): S E Bowyer

History and Politics
 Class II (W): R O Catt; L Roberts

History and Welsh History
 Class II (W): J P Beasley

History and Welsh History
 Class II (W): J E Pease

International Politics and Spanish
 Class II (W): M J Davies

Italian and German
 Class II (W): S Gleave

Italian and Spanish
 Class II (W): D N J Merritt

Italian and Welsh
 Class II (W): T A McCamman

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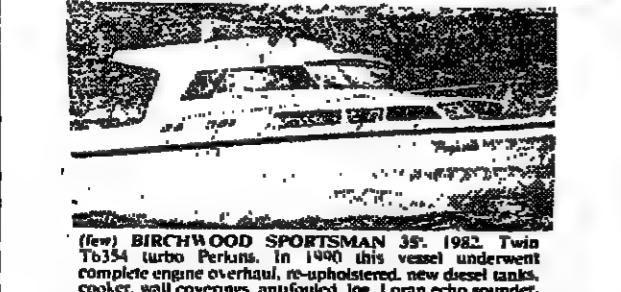
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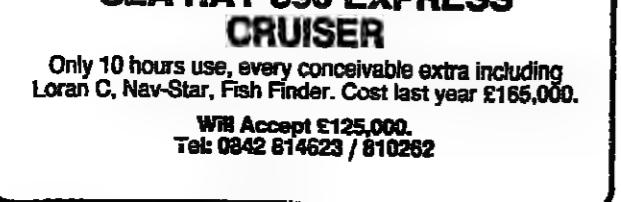
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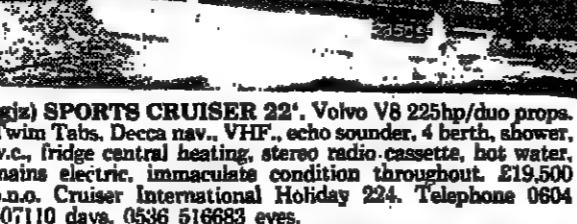
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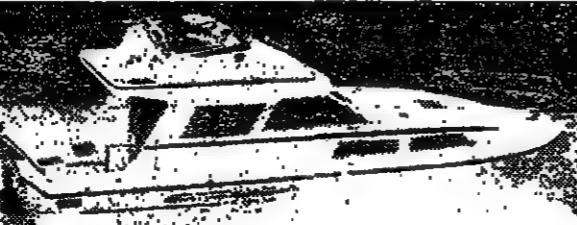
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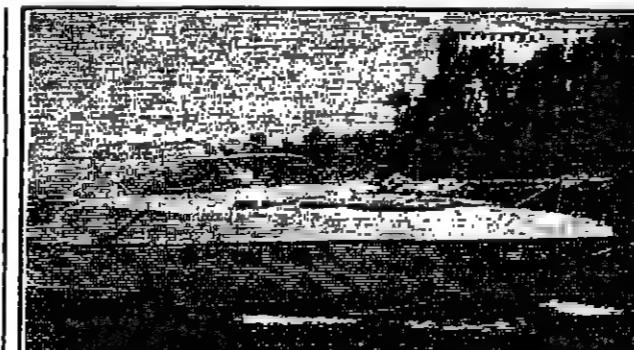
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The latest in high-tech racing, yet with all the traditional style of sailing: beneath the shallow, saucer-shape hull is a deep, thin keel, which has a lead bulb at the tip to help the crew right the Ultra 30 when the almost inevitable capsizes occurs

Flying the go-faster dinghy

A new class of boat is exciting sailors and attracting prize money. Keith Wheatley takes to the water

Top-rank sailors in Britain have had two desires in recent years. One is perennial — the urge to sail exciting boats. The second is to establish a regular professional racing circuit that is televised and offers prize money. High-tech Ultra 30s are the response to this dream.

These are giant dinghies, 30ft long and with a sailplan big enough for a conventional yacht nearly twice their length, and they are the fastest monohulls on the water.

With the giant asymmetric spinnakers pulling hard downwind, the Ultras can achieve more than 25 knots, fast enough to pull a water-skier.

Upwind, their speed is only just into double figures, but the drama of having nine men leaning out to balance the vast mainsail adds a certain "visual velocity"

to the scene. Beneath the shallow, saucer-shaped hull is a deep, thin keel with a lead bulb at the tip.

When the inevitable capsizes comes, the by-now horizontal length of the keel is invaluable as all the crew members balance on it and attempt to lever the boat upright.

With the twenty-eighth America's Cup only 21 months away, such top sailors are unlikely to be available to sail Ultras in the 1991 season. That was not the intention at all.

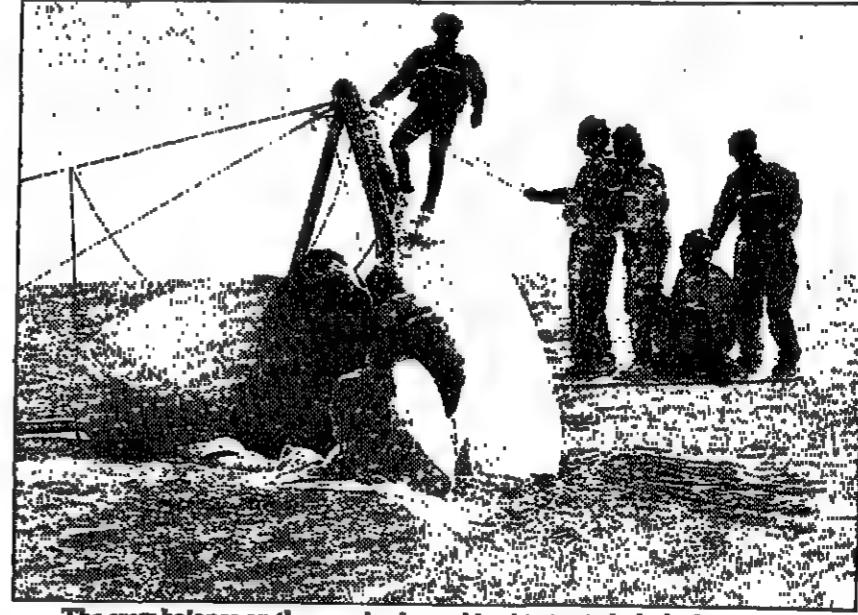
Learning from the American mistakes, Mr Humphreys settled on a virtual one-design rule, under which the winning boat would be the one that is sailed the fastest. The on-the-water cost of an Ultra 30 is about £30,000.

Television coverage will come from

TVs in Southampton and Gary Lovejoy, head of sport who has supported the circus from the outset, will record five regattas this summer for broadcast on Channel 4. Although disappointed that there are only five boats instead of the promised nine, television interest remains firm.

The highlight of this inaugural season will be at Falmouth over the weekend of August 18 and 19 when the world championship is due to be held. New boats from the Continent are expected, as well as several Ultimates 30s from the United States.

Since the championship coincides with the end of the annual Falmouth Week regatta, television viewers may be treated to the sight of these high-tech projectiles weaving through the fleet of traditional gaff-rigged oyster boats.



The crew balance on the now-horizontal keel to try to jerk the boat upright

Forget about spending weekends relaxing in a holiday cottage and invest in a powerboat instead

Falling for a Princess with sleek style

"**W**HILE others have a holiday cottage, we have a boat and we use it every weekend, summer and winter, rain or shine," Ian Headon, aged 52, says.

He runs a bakery business in Holsworthy, Devon, and is one of a number of entrepreneurs who are turning to the water for relaxation.

"My wife and I are heavily tied to the business," he adds, "so we keep the boat at Plymouth, 40 miles away, and use it to escape the pressure."

The Headon's boat is a Princess 415, a 42ft six-birth fly-bridge cruiser which has the speed to carry them across to the Channel Islands and France and back in a weekend.

It is the second Princess they have owned and was bought new three years ago to replace a second-hand 38.

Built by Marine Projects at Plymouth, one of Europe's largest boatbuilders, the brand loyalty shown by the Headons is typical of 75 per cent of Princess owners who, according to the builders' statistics, trade up to a new model every two to three years.

"We've made money out of all our boats, but the Princesses hold their value particularly well," says Mr Headon, who turned to powerboating in 1970 after years of building and racing autocross cars.

Starting with a Pacific 550 17ft outboard cruiser, which they kept at home and trailed to the coast each weekend, the Headons graduated to a Comway 26 before trading up to their first Princess in 1983.

"We made a 10 per cent profit when we sold her three years later and I would expect

to make a 30 per cent profit if I came to sell the 415 now. Mind you, the new price has gone up by 50 per cent, so I am not sure I can afford to change," Mr Headon says.

However, with the 230 Princesses already in the water, a number that is increasing by four a week, there is no shortage of buyers for this five-year-old Bernard Olejinski design.

"She handles much better than the 30, which used to frighten me in a following sea and required courage to power her way out of a potential broad. The 415, which is less deep-vee in design, does not suffer that problem," Mr Headon advises.

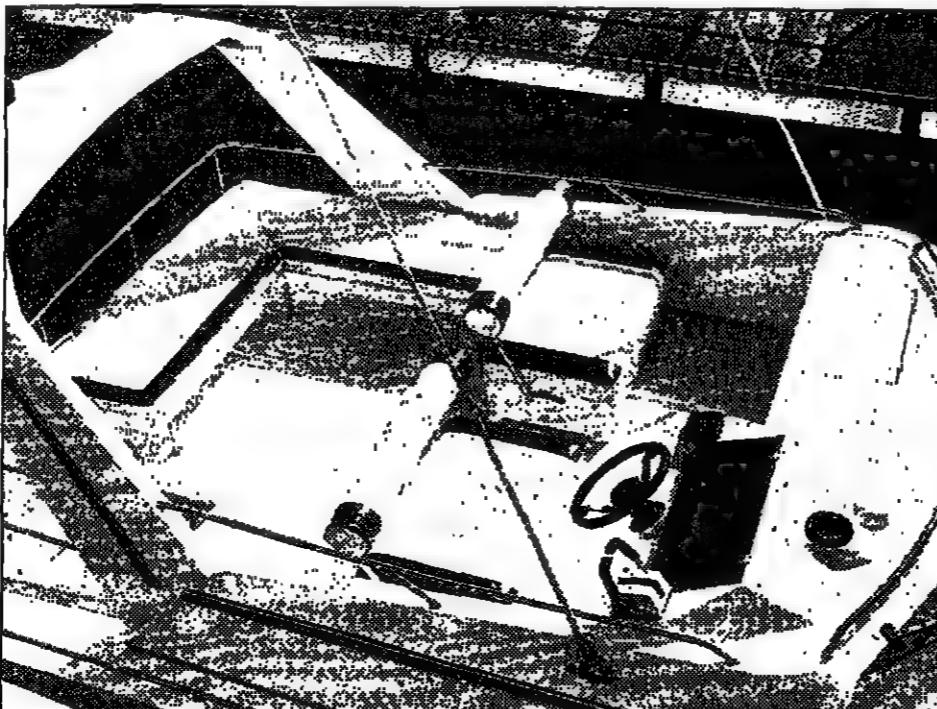
Another aspect that has attracted many owners is the boat's generous style of accommodation.

Boasting a master state-room forward and a second double-berth cabin to starboard, both with en-suite shower and toilet compartments, the 415 also has a large, well-equipped galley to port and a spacious deck saloon which is raised above the rest of the accommodation.

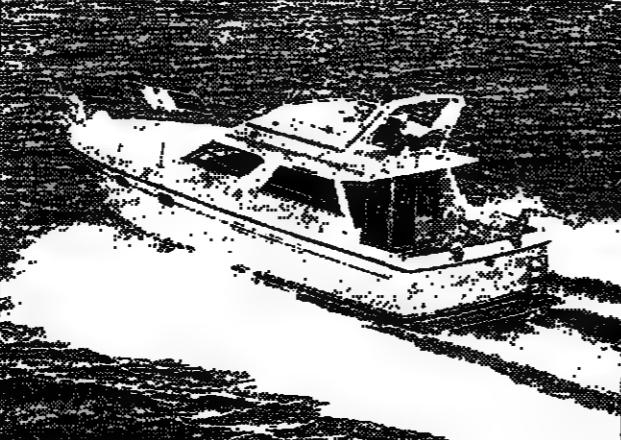
"Colossal aft cockpits are not practical in this country. You need a large saloon where everyone can sit in comfort when it is raining. That's the feature my wife likes most," Mr Headon says.

The only problem the couple have experienced with their boat has involved the engines.

"You can't fault the boat, but the stop solenoid on the port engine often failed to work and it took Volvo a total of 18 months, and a lot of



Creating royal waves: the powerful Princess fly-bridge motorcruiser (above, below)



DETAILS
Princess 415 Fly-bridge power cruiser
Length: 40ft 8in (12.39m)
Beam: 13ft 11in (4.24m)
Draft: 3ft 9in (1.14m)
Displacement: 11.5 tonnes
Engines: Twin valve TAMD61 (306hp) turbocharged diesels
Cruising speed: 25 knots
Range: 280 miles
Manufacturer: Marine Projects, Plymouth (0752 227 771)
Distributor: Marine Seco, Plymouth (0752 600 657)
Price: from about £132,650 plus VAT

letters from us, before it got fixed.

"Each time we wanted to stop the engine, it meant lifting up the carpets and floorboards in the saloon to get at it. Another time the gear linkages fell off."

"I would not choose these engines again but, at the time we bought her, Mar-

ine Projects did not offer a choice.

"Don't let that colour anyone's judgement about the builders," he adds. "Any problems we have had with the boat have been rectified within minutes of calling Marine Projects. You can't fault their service at all."

The Princess range of fly-

bridge cruisers and Riviera open cockpit sports cruisers begin with the Princess 266, which is priced at £38,855, and graduate in size to the top-of-the-range Princess 53 which costs £253,500. The company intends to launch a 65ft model later this year.

BARRY PICKTHALL

In the wake of SeaCat

THE argument continues about whether HoverSpeed's 220ft wave-piercing SeaCat is entitled to the Hales Trophy, after having set a new passenger ship record across the Atlantic last month. But interest in this 3,000-mile challenge remains undaunted.

Serge Madec, the French yachtsman who already holds the sailing record from New York to the Lizard, is preparing his 80ft powerboat, Jet Services, for a crack at SeaCat's acknowledged unrefuelled record crossing. Three other powered monsters are being built for attempts next year.

The largest is the 230ft Destriero with three 20,000hp General Electric LM gas turbines, under construction in Italy for the Aga Khan. A 180ft prototype patrol boat, powered by a 33,000hp Rolls-Royce RB21B gas turbine, is being built on Tyneside for Richard Noble and Ted Toleman; while the Italian Azimut group, which failed in its attempt last year, will return with a 90ft diesel-powered offshore racer.

Their target is to beat SeaCat's unrefuelled record and Gentry's outright time of 49 hours. They also want the Hales trophy but that may require a further skirmish.

• Tom McClean, the yachtsman with four previous Atlantic crossings to his credit, is making heavy going of his fifth solo adventure — in a bottle. After leaving New York on July 10, Mr McClean, who holds records for the fastest time of 54 days rowing single-handed, as well as for completing the voyage in the smallest yacht (7ft 9in), lost

his radio contact. His messages were picked up by a Canadian

ham radio operator this week.

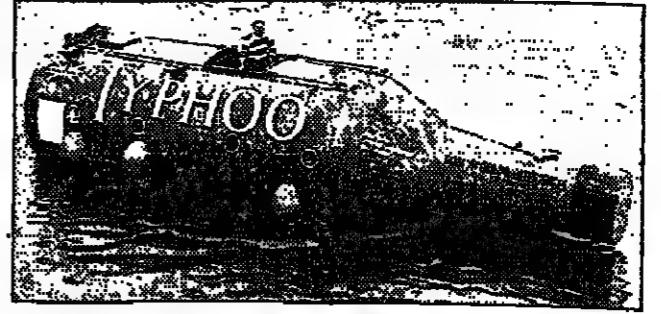
Having completed little more than 550 miles during his first week, Mr McClean said that strong winds had limited his speed to two knots at times. "Riding some of the waves, which have been up to 25ft high, has been none too comf," he says.

His 37ft, bottle-shaped, steel motor-sailer is powered by a 1.8-liter engine and has a cruising speed of only three knots. The neck of the bottle, which protrudes 10ft ahead of the hull, has accentuated the directional problems.

The object is to raise £500,000 for the National Children's Home, but the lack of radio communication could have a serious effect on fund-raising. Mr McClean, brought up in an orphanage, hopes to reach Falmouth around August 14 — a week behind schedule.

• Fed up with the rest of the world listening in on your radio telephone? British Telecom is working on the answer. A service to be launched in November will provide boat-owners with automatic ship-to-shore access and call scrambling, using existing on-board radio equipment.

Called "Autolink RT", all that will be required is a conversion unit costing £300-£500 to bypass the coast station operator and provide direct access to world telephone networks. The equipment has a range of 40 miles on VHF and 200 miles on MF radio frequencies.



Bottled up: Tom McClean at the helm of his Atlantic craft

Executive Editor David Brewerton

£193m thrift write-off by Ronson group
HERON International, Gerald Ronson's privately owned property and car dealer company, has written off £193 million in connection with its involvement in the Arizona thrift industry.

The extraordinary item appears in the results for the year to end-March 1990 and covers the £100 million losses incurred by Pima Savings, the company's savings and loans subsidiary, and a £100 million provision for losses on properties and affiliate companies transferred from Pima to Heron. Pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £65.3 million.

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Tokyo Nikkei Avg
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Closing Prices ... Page 43

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B&C wins partial victory on Quadrex

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH & Commonwealth, the collapsed financial services group, has won an important victory in its £280 million lawsuit against Quadrex. The American financial company has agreed to drop part of its defence and counterclaim against B & C's action which could have incurred millions of pounds in legal costs.

The claims by the US company formed a second line of defence to B & C's action and threatened to hold up settlement of the case for many months.

B & C is suing Quadrex for allegedly breaking its contract to buy M W Marshall & Co, the money broker, and William Street, the US securities dealer, for £280 million.

In the High Court yesterday, Quadrex's counsel said the company had "irrevocably and unconditionally" withdrawn allegations that B & C failed to ensure that Marshall & William Street acted properly to allow Quadrex to arrange financing lines for the bid.

Quadrex also dropped claims against Marshall & William Street, Michael Knowles, its chairman, Peter Bentley, its finance director, and William Street. It had accused them of interfering with its ability to com-

pete the acquisition. Quadrex has agreed to pay part of Marshall's costs.

Both sides, however, deny the withdrawal is the first stage in a full settlement. "We considered the savings this meant in time and cost," said Harry Anderson, a partner at Herbert Smith, Quadrex's solicitors. "Our strongest defence by far is our claim of fraudulent misrepresentation by B & C which is very much alive."

Quadrex and Samuel Montagu, its adviser, are defending B & C's action on the grounds that B & C did not give all its information to the companies to Quadrex, at the time the deal was agreed. Almost all the evidence in the High Court case has now been given, and the judge will give his decision in October after the summer recess. The climbdown by Quadrex saves the two sides from fighting a further action through the winter.

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There is more, much more, to the sale of Britain's mainframe computer industry by STC than meets the eye, or than the STC management would care to admit. I say sale, without the qualification "proposed", because the deal to sell a controlling stake in ICL to Fujitsu of Japan seems to be agreed in all its dimensions: price, shareholding, debt levels and so on. Barring accidents, the deal will be signed in six days' time.

The sale marks the first step in the break-up of STC. If there is to be a second step, which is likely but not inevitable, it will be accomplished either by the management itself under Arthur Walsh, the chairman (and chief executive), or by the combined forces of Fujitsu and Northern Telecom, which holds 27 per cent of the STC equity. The timetable has yet to be laid down and the methodology has yet to be refined, but the idea is developing and is already more than a mere twinkle in somebody's eye.

From the standpoint of ICL, the deal with Fujitsu makes considerable sense, although that

does not mean that ICL is fully behind it. ICL has lived a reasonably quiet life as part of STC, and has been quietly successful. It is, however, too dependent on the British market and if the deal is to work for Fujitsu, ICL will have to try much harder in continental Europe, an environment that is hostile, protectionist and near paranoid about Japanese competition. Life as an ICL salesman will never be the same again, but, if the company is to be developed as Fujitsu's European base, it can be only to the good of both the company and the country.

The sale is also welcome to Northern Telecom, which has seen STC concentrate its resources on ICL rather than on its own joint venture. Northern Telecom will be glad to see ICL off the premises, and the friendship of Paul Stern, the chief executive of Northern Telecom, with Takuma Yamamoto, the president of Fujitsu, is not

irrelevant to the deal now being concluded.

There is said to be a faction on the STC board that does not see the deal in quite such a rosy light. It recognises, quite rightly, that STC would have little protection from a hostile takeover without ownership of ICL, which at least has public interest aspects (in defence and the supply of computers to the public administration) that would need to be examined. The buyer for the residue of ICL would be on hand, and there would be a little pile of ready cash on which the bidder could lay hands. It is also argued that ICL has launched its new generation of computers already, and would be capable of generating considerable amounts

of cash over the next few years, cash that could do wonders to STC's business. Longer term, the reverse is probably true.

There is likely to be some institutional, as well as political, noise about the sale, as old axes are taken out for a thorough grinding. The European manufacturers will be doing their best to sink the deal, which does threaten a weak market with a formidable competitor.

Relations between STC's chairman (and chief executive) and some of his institutional shareholders were damaged last year when Mr Walsh sold half a million shares into the market at 339p, the fruits of an option exercised at 80p. He still holds another half-million shares. Mr

Walsh, aged 63, came into STC after a lifetime's career with GEC and has largely completed the cost-cutting and pruning that the group required. If he judges that the time is ripe for him to cash up and retire, few would blame him.

High Roller

Americans are again taking a shine to Rolls-Royce, just as they have taken one to the shares of British Airways. There is a mixed blessing for American shareholders. On the positive side, when a American fund decides to buy, the effect on the share price is likely to be warmly beneficial. However, when they want out, getting the shares sold can be more important to them than the exit price. For BA, there is the potential additional complication of convincing the world that it is still the British

flag-carrier when another airline is proportionately more British-owned.

It is less than a year since Rolls-Royce, after a long battle between the government and the European commission, increased the limit on overseas shareholdings from 15 per cent to 29.5 per cent.

Rolls-Royce is now signalling that the level of foreign ownership is up to 25 per cent, a warning to the market that it needs to keep a watch to make sure that it does not sell shares that cannot be registered. If the limit is again reached, the question should surely be asked whether it should be abandoned completely. After all, a foreign owner could hardly pick up the Rolls-Royce plants and export them.

The limit on foreign ownership is one of those post-privatisation anachronisms that still hang about in dusty corners of a number of former lame ducks. Like the golden share for Britoil, which is finally to be given up years after the company was taken over, they are no use to man nor beast.

Tokyo cash helps revitalise a below par Scottish hotel

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE Old Course Hotel and Country Club at St Andrews was once disparagingly described during televised coverage of a golf tournament as "a chest of drawers with the drawers left out".

Now, after a Japanese-led takeover and a £15 million interior redesign and facelift during the off-season, the hotel reopened this summer, just in time for the British Open, as a less jarring companion to the ancient golf links and picturesque town in Fife.

Nevertheless, many locals are still to be heard grumbling, harking back to the days when nothing but a railway station, station master's cottage and two coal sheds adjoined the famous Road Hole, that wicked 17th green where countless championship dreams have been dashed.

The refurbishment of the hotel used enough carpet to cover all 18 of the golf course's greens and enough marble tiles to pave the perimeter of the entire course.

The hotel also now boasts a spa where, besides the usual exercise equipment and swimming pool, Scottish masseurs will pummel the body into shape or provide rejuvenating therapies, such as shiatsu, a Japanese massage akin to acupuncture without needles.

The new owners, led by Seibu Saison International, the Japanese hotel and retailing group which recently bought Intercontinental Hotels, have been keen to maintain the hotel's Scottish aura rather than introduce an oriental flavour.

"The last thing the owners want would be to make it Japanese. It needs to reflect what it is and where it is," says Peter Crome, the general manager, who ran the Savoy Hotel for eight years until the end of last year.

"After the excitement of the Savoy's centenary year, I needed another challenge — and here it is," says Mr Crome.

Mr Crome, who was put off golf in his youth because of compulsory caddying for his father at a penny a hole, is even beginning to warm to the golfing ambience. He has started to take lessons.

Sadly for most of his guests the hotel location does not ensure them a round on the Old Course. "We can only get a



Tee time: Peter Crome, general manager of the Old Course Hotel

couple of hundred tee times a year," says Mr Crome.

"But there are 33 superb golf courses in the vicinity, and a whole range of charms, including wonderful castles, that we're here for the Dunhill Cup at the end of last year. And the restaurants are far better," said Mr Aoki.

However, the Old Course Hotel now accepts the same credit cards that millions of Japanese use at their local Seibu supermarkets and at the lavish Seibu department stores in Tokyo.

So far, says Mr Crome, only 8 per cent of guests this year have been Japanese, though there are plans to arrange more package tours from Tokyo.

Two of the Japanese guests who are staying at the hotel with a host of top golfers, with their wives and children, are Isao Aoki and his wife Chie. They seemed more than satisfied with the hotel service. "I'm enjoying it. It's a far better hotel now than when we were here for the Dunhill Cup at the end of last year. And the restaurants are far better," said Mr Aoki.

The room rates appear a trifle steep, though, with the average double room costing £170, slightly more than before the hotel's refurbishment. Mr Crome insists the higher prices offer better value for money.

"We know we can raise in loads of money during the Open," says Mr Crome, "but there must be limits. I was tempted to set up a huge marquee to cater for the 60,000 who walked by each day — but that would perhaps be going over the top."

Markets shrug off disruption by 'convenient' bomb

IRA hoist by its own petard

By OUR CITY STAFF

The IRA is clearly not expert at traded options. If the bomb had exploded two days earlier, when contracts expired and became due for settlement, it would have created mayhem among London options traders. As it was, it could have scarcely chosen a more convenient time to close the market.

The London Traded Options Market, housed in the International Stock Exchange, deals in put and call options in 67 of the stock market's largest companies as well as in the FT-SE 100 index itself. Its 300 dealers from London's largest securities firms trade 25,000 to 30,000 contracts a day.

The bomb warning at 8.04 am yesterday cleared the trading floor before dealing was due to begin at 8.40 am. The damage to the visitors' gallery and part of the floor ensured that trading would not open again that day. The stock exchange engineers are expected to test and repair LTOM's computers over the weekend, to have the floor ready for trading on Monday.

The rest of the stock market continued to function, evacuation operations permitting, as normal. Most of the 900 exchange staff, except engineering and technical specialists, were sent home. Some other key workers moved to offices in Christopher Street and Finsbury

Square near by. By lunch, the police reopened the tower, allowing the clear-up to begin.

The exchange's main computer is housed in an anonymous building in the East End, with market-makers linked by the Seaq and Topic information and computer dealing systems and the STX telephone exchange.

If terrorists had attacked the Stock Exchange before Big Bang in 1986, the whole of the City's financial markets would have ground to a halt. As it was they scarcely hiccuped. The closure did prevent the exchange calculating the volume traded or some of the indices, but dealings in individual shares was as busy as it ever is on a sunny Friday.

Options traders had expected an eventful day on the market before the explosion. The July company options all expired on Wednesday, and the next expiry date for FT-SE options is not due for some days.

If the market had closed on either of those days, it would have left investors and speculators with open positions and facing possible losses of tens of thousands of pounds. The stock exchange may have been forced to extend the expiry dates, to limit the confusion.

Yesterday was also the end of the Stock Exchange's two-week accounting

Investment pays off at Dillons

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

TERRY Maher, the critic of the net book agreement preventing booksellers from giving discounts on books, said that book sales at his Dillons shops are growing faster than forecast, thanks to the £23 million invested in refurbishment since 1988.

Mr Maher, chairman of Pentos, the owner of the Dillons bookshops and the Ryman office supplies chain, said Dillons' sales continue to grow by more than 30 per cent each year, with book sales in London running at more than £30 million each year, easily making Dillons the capital's biggest bookseller.

Opening a £1 million Dillons bookshop at Oxford Circus, Mr Maher said: "At this time of pain and anxiety in much of retailing, I can report that our investment is proving a remarkable success."

He said that sales in the new Dillons in King's Road, Chelsea, were more than 20 per cent above expectations. Sales in its first full year will be more than £2.25 million compared with the £850,000 of book sales achieved by its previous occupant.

Mr Maher said: "We remain on target to achieve our objective of a 15 per cent share of the British market by 1994."

The build-up of funds committed for investment in

Cash mound points to return of junk bonds

The full coffers of American institutions may give high-yield debt securities a second chance

junk bonds means that the long queue of American companies waiting to issue high-yield debt securities for refinancing or for acquisition purposes will soon start moving.

In January, an annual equivalent of \$10 billion of cash was withdrawn from high-yield funds in the United States and reinvested elsewhere. By last month, the position had been reversed, with an annualised \$10 billion cash inflow to high-yield funds.

The excess supply of cash has resulted in spreads over Treasuries for the highest-rated junk bonds narrowing by 50 basis points to 304 basis points since the height of the Drexel affair in February.

Already this month, leveraged deals worth almost \$4 billion have been announced, according to figures from the magazine *Corporate Money*.

Those deals include this week's RJR Nabisco refinancing and the proposed \$1.6 billion leveraged buyout of General Instrument. No large transactions were announced

between February and last month.

The deals expected to emerge this autumn are not likely to be the old-style leveraged buyouts of quoted companies but more conservatively structured refinancings and acquisition financings for strategic, rather than financial, takeovers.

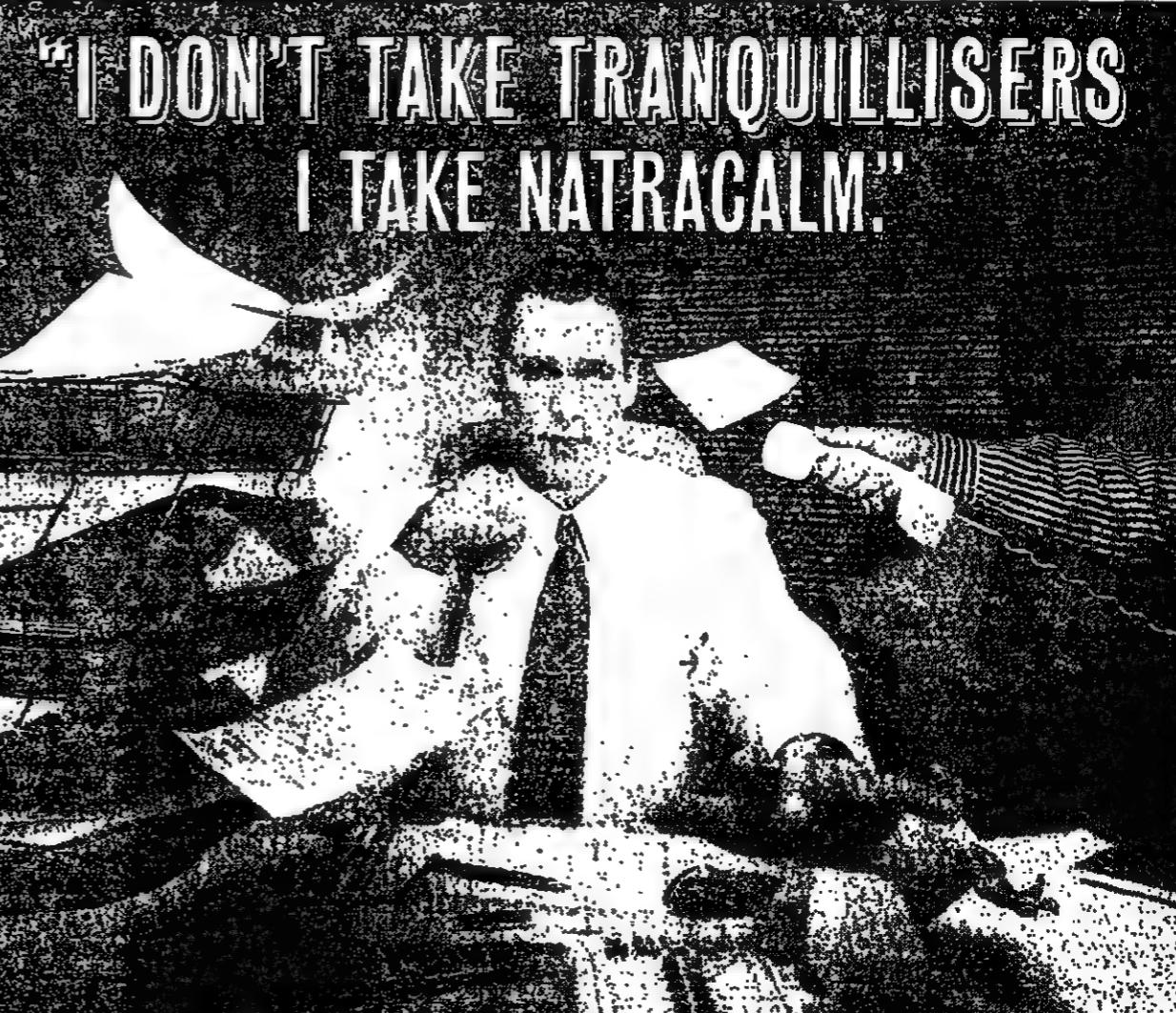
A spokesman for the investment bank Kidder Peabody said that debt/equity ratios of five to one, rather than last year's ten to one, would be the norm.

Mr Monaghan said that a return to the \$5 billion to \$10 billion a year level of deal-making seen in the mid-Eighties was possible, but not the \$25 billion to \$30 billion level seen at the height of the junk fever of the late Eighties.

The junk bond market received a fillip this week with the successful refinancing of RJR Nabisco, the largest-ever leveraged buyout. The operation yielded capital gains for holders of the bonds being retired and generated favourable publicity for the junk bond market, Mr Monaghan said.

RJR's convertible debentures 2009 are now trading at about 117 cents in the dollar after touching lows of about 60 earlier this year.

Jonathan Prynn



"IT HAD BEEN ONE OF THOSE WEEKS,

AND IT WAS CERTAINLY PROVING TO BE ONE OF THOSE DAYS . . .

NOTHING WAS GOING RIGHT. BUT I COPED.

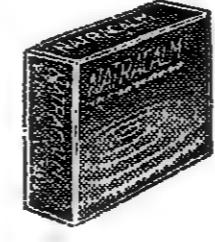
THANKS TO NATRACALM. TAKEN OVER A COUPLE OF DAYS

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Prospective investors in this new Trust are reminded that Application Forms for Ordinary Shares (with Warrants attached) must be delivered - by post or by hand - no later than 10 a.m. on Thursday, 26 July 1990 to Barclays Registrars, New Issues Department, P.O. Box No. 123, Fleetway House, 23 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD.

The full Prospectus was published in the Financial Times and Daily Telegraph on 14 July 1990, together with a separate application form for a River & Mercantile PEP.

Investors requiring further copies of the Prospectus and PEP application form may obtain them direct from River & Mercantile Investment Management Ltd by telephoning 071-405 7722 during working hours. Over this weekend you can also request details by leaving your name and address on our answering service at 071-433 1500.

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Corporate Pep 'first' spreads risk

By RUPERT BRUCE

CABLE and Wireless, the international electronics group, has launched what it believes to be the first corporate personal equity plan (Pep) allowing a split between a company's shares and a unit trust.

Pep holders have the option to invest in just Cable and Wireless shares or to put half of their cash into the Cazenove UK Income and Growth Fund.

Corporate Peps have been criticised in the past because there is no spread of risk in a portfolio of one share.

Harry Henderson, managing director of Cazenove Unit

Trust Management, said: "Here we have a corporate Pep, but at the same time we have tried to offer a diversification of risk alongside it."

Cable and Wireless's Pep also offers the advantage that all shares bought by the planholders are new shares and so there is no dealing charge. Smith & Nephew, the industrial company, pioneered this facility when its Pep was launched two months ago.

An increasing number of corporate Peps are being launched, taking advantage of the rules allowing an investment in equities of up to £6,000 each year free of tax.

About 30 have been launched since Peps were introduced in the 1987 Budget - seven since the beginning of this year.

British Aerospace, South West Water, Guardian Royal Exchange, Northumbrian Water, Royal Insurance, Abbey National and Lorraine are among the companies offering corporate Peps. Their motivation is to increase employee share ownership and to widen their shareholder base.

The Cable and Wireless charges are roughly the same as other corporate Peps, while they are lower than those of the typical managed portfolio plans offered by financial

services companies. There is an initial charge of 0.5 per cent and an annual charge of 0.75 per cent, although Cazenove also takes a 1 per cent annual charge on the unit trust.

CC&P Trustees, which administers the bulk of corporate Peps, typically charges 1 per cent initially and 0.5 per cent annually.

Pep holders wanting to sell their Cable and Wireless shares would have to pay a stockbroker's commission of 0.5 per cent plus a £10 administration fee. That compares favourably with normal stockbroking commissions of 1 per cent and more.

The success of recent corporate Peps - Smith & Nephew has attracted £2 million and British Aerospace £650,000 in two months - is encouraging others. CC&P Trustees has plans to launch six more this year and has talked to British Petroleum, British Telecom and British Gas, among others.

Because so many financial products, like mortgages and pensions, utilise managed or unit trust Peps, investors should beware of inadvertently opening more than one. If they do, the second will be cancelled and the securities inside it made subject to both income and capital gains tax.



Henderson: diversification

Lenders top up supply of fixed mortgages

By RODNEY HOBSON

ENTHUSIASM for fixed-rate mortgages continues unabated despite hopes of a fall in mortgage rates next year. Cash has run out for two schemes on offer, but three new ones were announced this week.

A tentative sign of easing interest rates comes with the Woolwich building society charging 13.65 per cent over the first two years. It has a tranche of £50 million available. The Woolwich is taking

an aggressive stand, following up an investment bond paying top interest rates launched earlier this month.

It claims to have the cheapest two-year fixed rate mortgage currently on offer, just below the 13.75 per cent offered by the Alliance & Leicester and 13.95 per cent from Barclay's Bank.

Mortgages with lower fixed rates than the Woolwich tend to run for longer periods in anticipation of a general easing of interest rates, although

First Mortgage Securities offers 12.95 per cent to the end of 1991. This carries compulsory accident, sickness and unemployment insurance.

The lowest current rate is 12.9 per cent from Nationwide Anglia, fixed for five years.

The £50 million allotted by Nationwide Anglia ran out this week but a further £25 million has been arranged to extend the offer.

Household Mortgage Corporation, which already has a

two-year fixed rate deal, is adding a two-year, 13.95 per cent offer specifically for first-time buyers. Loans are available up to 100 per cent.

Scarborough Building Society introduced a two-stage mortgage yesterday with interest at 14.4 per cent until August 31, 1991, and 12.95 per cent until August 1992.

Unlike many fixed-rate mortgages that must be linked to an endowment or pension, this one is available as a repayment mortgage. The York-

BRIEFINGS

■ Clerical Medical Investment Group is combining the growth potential of an investment bond with a tax-free pension and a building society account. A lump sum invested in TessAsset is split into two schemes. A temporary annuity will make ten half-yearly payments of up to £900 each into a tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa) to be introduced in January following this year's Budget. The balance of the lump sum will be placed in an investment portfolio aimed at keeping the original capital sum intact over the term of the plan.

■ Co-operative Bank offers a payments protection plan to customers with overdrafts, secured personal loans or bridging loans. Sickness, accident and life assurance cover is provided in the event of death or disability. No medical is required and the plan, underwritten by Sun Alliance, is

available to people aged between 18 and 65 who are employed. A corporate version covers overdrafts and commercial borrowing.

■ Most members of company pension schemes retire with a considerably smaller pension than the maximum allowed and find there is a "retirement gap" between what they need and how much they receive, research by Sun Alliance shows. It is launching Pension Reserve, for additional voluntary contributions for those in company schemes. The aim is to offer flexibility to suit individual needs.

■ Keith Taylor, a local government personnel executive, aged 42, from South Wirral, Merseyside, has been elected chairman of the Stock Exchange Investors' Club. He will sit on the International Stock Exchange chairman's Investors' Advisory Group.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

BANKS	Ordinary Dep A/c:	Nominal rate		Compounded at six rates		Minimum Investment £	Interest £	Interest £	Contact:
		8.00	8.10	4.08	none/none				
Fixed Term Deposits:									
Barclays	10.31	10.51	9.05	25,000-50,000	1 min	071 888 1887			
	11.28	11.36	9.10	25,000-50,000	6 min	071 825 1587			
Lloyds	10.43	10.43	9.34	3,500-50,000	1 min	071 825 1587			
	10.43	10.43	9.34	2,500-50,000	8 min	071 825 1587			
Midland	10.43	10.47	9.70	2,500-50,000	1 min	071 280 2865			
	10.43	10.47	9.70	10,000-50,000	1 min	071 280 2865			
NatWest	10.50	10.50	9.40	10,000-24,000	1 min	071 726 1000			
	10.50	10.50	9.40	10,000-64,000	6 min	071 726 1000			

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS				
Bank of Scotland MINC	10.45	10.57	8.78	2,500 none 031 442 7777
Barclays	9.50	9.84	7.87	2,500 none 0844 252 9891
Prudential plc	9.50	9.84	7.87	No min. none 01 626 6545
Co-operative	9.00	9.20	4.98	1,000 none 051 395 2076
Emmerson	9.25	9.95	7.40	500 none 01 322 3386
London HCA	7.00	7.20	5.78	500 none 01 322 3386
Northumbrian HCA	9.50	9.84	7.87	2,000 none
Royal Trust	9.00	9.31	7.48	500 none 01 374 3374
RBS Personal	9.75	10.14	8.08	2,500 none 081 658 6655
TSB Personal & Financial	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,000 none 01 600 6600

BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Ordinary Share A/c:	8.15	8.15	4.92	1 min none
Best buy - all accounts				
Barclays	9.50	9.50	7.92	250 min none
St. Pancras	10.50	10.50	8.40	500 min none
National & Provincial	11.30	11.30	9.00	5,000 min 60 day
Emmerson & Lloyds	11.75	11.75	9.40	10,000 min 60 day
Emmerson & Lloyds Mid	12.25	12.25	9.90	10,000 min 1 year
Best buy - all accounts				
Cheltenham & Gloucester	11.50	11.50	9.10	5,000 min none
	12.25	12.25	9.90	3,000 min 30 day
St. Pancras	12.25	12.25	9.79	3,000 min 60 day
Worcester & Wolverhampton	12.10	12.10	9.70	10,000 min 60 day
Emmerson & Lloyds	12.70	12.70	10.15	5,000 min 6 months
Card/Cheque Accounts:				
Card Cash	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 min
Alliance & Leicester	6.50	6.50	5.82	500 min
Anglia First	6.00	6.00	4.80	500 min
Compiled by Chase de Ville Moneyline - call 01 404 5768 for further details				

NATIONAL SAVINGS				
Ordinary A/c:	5.00	5.75	3.00	5-10,000 min 5 day 041 568 4655
Investment A/c:	12.75	9.56	7.95	5-25,000 min 3 month 041 568 4655
Income Fund:	13.50	10.13	8.10	2,000-25,000 min 3 month 0253 661531
Small Income Cert:	9.50	9.50	9.50	55-1,000 min 8 day 041 568 4655
Family Plan:	9.50	9.50	9.50	20-200/min 14 day 051 386 4900
Emergency Return:	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-1000 min 5 yrs 041 568 4655
Capital Bond:	13.00	9.75	7.50	100-1000 min 5 yrs 041 568 4655

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS				

<tbl_r cells="5" ix="4" maxcspan="1" maxrspan="1" usedcols="

Insurance
omission

From G.M. Cooper
Sir, In view of the ever increasing popularity of adventure holidays, such as safaris, other mobile organised holidays and those to more remote locations likely to lack facilities, I would draw attention to a possibly expensive omission in some travel insurance policies, even those issued by large and apparently reputable companies.

Should a requirement for medical attention arise involving hospital out-patient treatment and possibly a hotel stop over, it may well be found that whilst transportation to hospital and medical treatment is covered, hotel expenses and the cost of return to the holiday location is not. This is not highlighted in exclusion clauses and is justified on the basis of omission in the cover, something the majority of people would miss. It seems that financially you are better off dead or at least seriously ill when all expenses are paid to ship you home.

It is not so much a case of reading the small print as the blank spaces, as I found to be the cost of £360.

Yours faithfully,
G.M. COOPER,
9 St Malo Close,
Ferring Worthing,
West Sussex



Debit débâcle

From Mr Peter K. Ayles
Sir, Following on from recent correspondence on direct debits, I recently completed an application form from Welsh Water which offered £10 from my next bill if I agreed to pay by direct debit.

Their reply rejected my application as "we cannot apply direct debits on metered accounts".

One day, perhaps, they will leap into the 20th century.
Yours faithfully,
PETER K. AYLES,
112 Llanrwst Road,
Upper Colwyn Bay,
Clwyd.

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Portfolio
PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 43).

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+6	+7	+5	+3	+5		
2	+4	+4	+3	+3	+1		
3	+5	+4	+6	+3	+6		
4	+7	+8	+4	+2	+5		
5	+4	+5	+6	+3	+4		
6	+6	+6	+3	+2	+3		
7	+5	+8	+7	+4	+2		
8	+8	+5	+5	+2	+6		
9	+5	+4	+4	+5	+3		
10	+4	+7	+9	+4	+8		
11	+3	+8	+7	+5	+3		
12	+4	+3	+5	+5	+3		
13	+3	+6	+8	+5	+3		
14	+6	+4	+4	+3	+3		
15	+7	+4	+6	+4	+4		
16	+3	+3	+5	+3	+4		
17	+7	+5	+6	+4	+5		
18	+4	+5	+4	+5	+4		
19	+5	+6	+4	+3	+2		
20	+6	+4	+6	+2	+7		
21	+5	+3	+5	+4	+3		
22	+4	+4	+5	+1	+2		
23	+4	+7	+8	+6	+2		
24	+5	+4	+3	+1	+1		
25	+8	+4	+4	+3	+6		
26	+3	+4	+8	+3	+6		
27	+3	+8	+8	+5	+1		
28	+4	+4	+5	+2	+1		
29	+6	+4	+5	+3	+4		
30	+6	+4	+4	+2	+2		
31	+3	+5	+4	+3	+5		
32	+5	+5	+3	+2	+1		
33	+3	+6	+7	+4	+1		
34	+7	+5	+5	+3	+4		
35	+8	+5	+6	+3	+5		
36	+6	+7	+4	+2	+2		
37	+4	+5	+4	+1	+2		
38	+4	+7	+8	+5	+1		
39	+4	+4	+5	+3	+3		
40	+3	+6	+7	+5	+2		
41	+6	+4	+5	+4	+5		
42	+3	+4	+5	+4	+3		
43	+4	+8	+8	+7	+1		
44	+5	+6	+5	+1	+3		

LETTERS

He looks like
he's just had
a bill for the
auction costs.



The costs of going to auction

From Mr Warwick Brench
Sir, In assessing the "hidden costs" of selling works of art at auction (Weekend Money, July 7) Ruth Corb falls short of a full exposé.

In deciding whether to sell an item through either a dealer or auctioneer the following should be remembered.

The auction house's total charge of nearly one third (buyer's premium, seller's commission, insurance and value added tax) is based on the wholesale value of the item. A similar charge levied by a dealer would normally be based on a much higher retail valuation, assuming insufficient merit in the object.

The auction house will also be unlikely to guarantee that an item will sell, and in the event that it remains unsold is

entitled to charge "unsold commission", usually a percentage of the reserve, and will also charge for any catalogue illustration, which can easily run to over a hundred pounds.

Additionally, the period of time between one's sending the item to auction, its inclusion in a suitable sale, the sale itself and one's receipt of the funds will normally result in a wait of many months.

In theory, at least, if not always in practice, a dealer may "place" your work of art the same day.

Yours faithfully,
WARWICK J.R. BRENCH,
Selective Eye Gallery,
50 Don Street,
St Helier,
Jersey,
Channel Islands.

Inflation relief would encourage savers

From H. Nixon
Sir, It is reported that the Chancellor of the Exchequer wishes to encourage the UK population to increase its personal savings rate.

One suggestion to achieve this should be adopted by the Inland Revenue as soon as possible; it is to grant inflation relief (as is done for capital gains tax) to interest paid by banks and building societies to personal savers.

For example, bank or building society rate of interest 15 per cent gross, inflation rate 8 per cent, income tax due on 15 minus eight = 7 per cent.

Such an additional tax allowance would give encouragement to savers and also give some compensation for the recent announcement of a

Zero interest
in free credit

From Mrs A. Keith
Sir, What I object to and come across increasingly often is the notice in shops: "0 per cent interest, 9 or 10 or X months to pay".

I recently bought a vacuum cleaner. The shop offered me several months "free credit". I refused, having never bought anything on hire purchase. Then I was told that there was no reduction for cash payment: the price advertised was the price, even if one did not want the facility of payment.

Very reluctantly, I bought the cleaner because it was the make and the model that I wanted. However, I left the shop feeling cheated and I do feel that 0 per cent interest should be made illegal or that cash payments should be made compulsorily cheaper.

Yours faithfully,
A. KEITH,
14 South Canterbury Road,
Canterbury,
Kent,
July 7.

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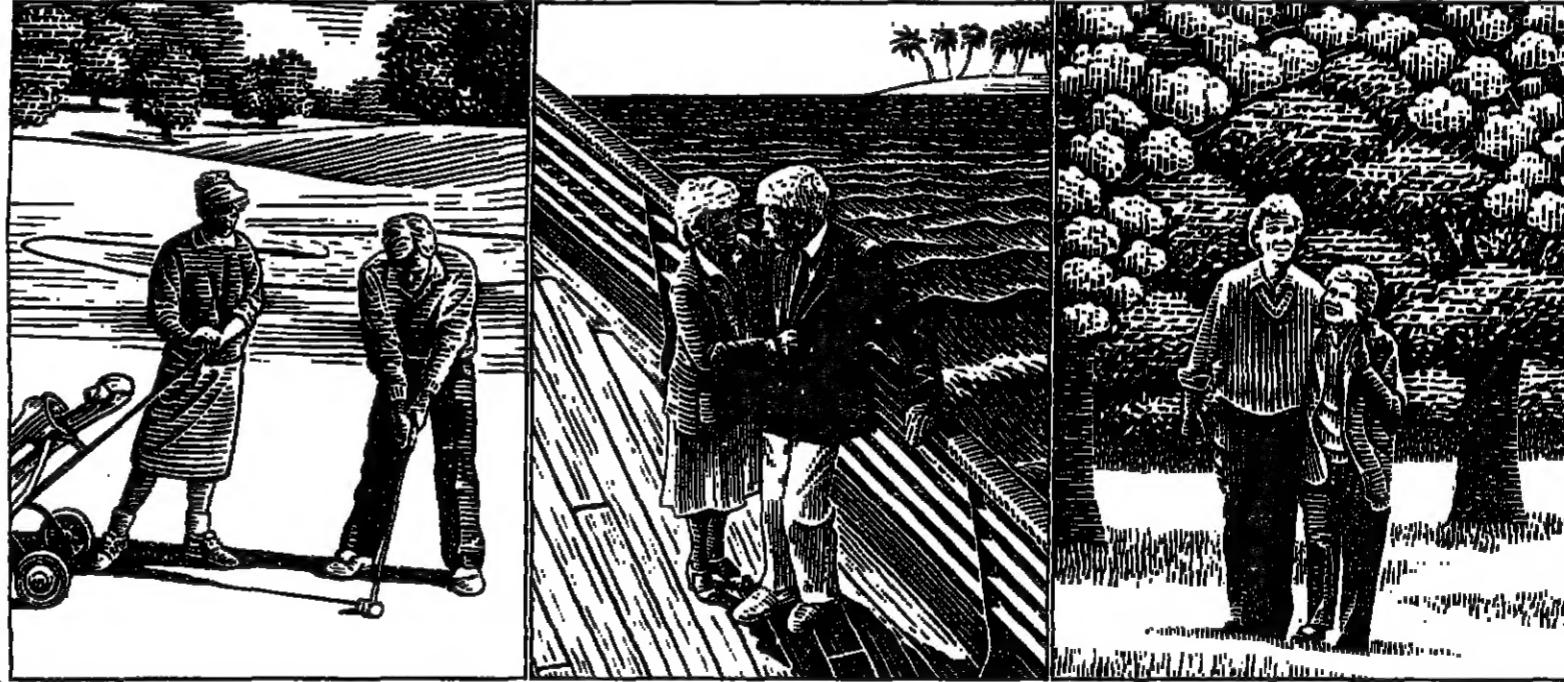
Name (Block letters please) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Date of birth _____

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*Source: Best PEP Adviser.

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Junk mail is getting trashed. Complaints to the Data Protection Registrar about unsolicited mail from companies have tripled in a year.

Electoral registers are the main source of names and addresses for junk mailers. They are available to any company as of right.

Shareholder lists are also raided without warning. Some Thames Water shareholders have received an offer from investment group MIM Britannia. The shareholders have been led to believe they have two options: either pay the second instalment or hand over their shares to MIM to be swapped for a personal equity plan.

MIM neglects to tell shareholders that if they accept the offer, they lose the loyalty bonus or discount on the water shares. Thames Water has made a formal complaint to the relevant watchdog, but that does not alter the fact that many shareholders may be confused by the offer, as they decide whether to pay the second instalment by July 31.

Many of the recipients of the MIM letter were young. In two

families of Thames shareholders it was the teenage children who received the offer, not the parents.

MIM said it was not targeting the young and inexperienced but those who had not already bought personal equity plans this year. Its mailing house eliminated almost a quarter of the shareholders on these grounds.

By yesterday morning it had received 1,000 calls from interested shareholders but could not say how many had converted into sales.

The group obtained the list of Thames shareholders from the water company's registers and can use any other register that it chooses, without the permission or knowledge of the company concerned.

The privatisations and other popular flotations such as Abbey National have increased the scope for junk mailers. Charities decided they should share in the good fortune of Abbey members,



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

at Freepost 22, London W1E 7EZ

The organisation needs the surname and initials of each person who wishes to be removed:

Short lived

Investors attracted by the rates offered by the Walthamstow building society in its advertisements this week for its 90-day notice account ought to be aware that the account should not be in existence for much longer than the notice period.

On July 31 members of the London-based society will be asked to vote on its proposed merger with the Cheltenham &

to whom it gave 100 free shares, trying emotional blackmail to persuade shareholders to hand part or all of the shares over.

A growing number of people are taking positive action to stop unwanted offers. Since the Mailing Preference Service was set up in 1983, 430,000 people have chosen to have their names removed from the lists of companies.

It usually takes two to three months from applying for junk-free post until all the companies have managed to put a stop to unsolicited offers.

Anyone wanting to be removed from the mailing lists of companies selling everything from timeshare to Christmas cakes should write to the service

Gloucester building society and there is no reason to believe that it will not gain a whopping 90 per cent-plus majority to do so. The two societies are scheduled to merge on October 31. This gives investors who responded immediately to Wednesday's advertisement and rushed £40,000 to one of its 11 branches, just 106 days to enjoy the 12.45 per cent offered.

At the end of October it is planned to scrap the 90-day account and transfer its customers to the C&G's instant access Gold account paying 11 per cent on such sums. The C&G does not have a 90-day account.

The largest print in the advertisement is the gross interest rate of 16.6 per cent. Technically savers who opened an account this week could, if the merger goes ahead, receive interest in July next year. If they were non-taxpayers this could then be paid gross. Few people with £40,000 available now will

be non-taxpayers and those who close their accounts in November to seek a better return will definitely not obtain 16.6 per cent, as the interest will be paid after tax has been deducted.

At the C&G a spokeswoman said that the Walthamstow could not assume that its members would vote for the merger to go ahead. The Walthamstow and C&G have to continue to trade as individual societies and to advertise their products until the matter was voted on. That was likely to mean further advertisements for the 90-day account next week when the merger is 99 days away.

Investors will be free to withdraw instantly their money in November, or late October if they give notice now. They may still feel they have been misled by the advertisements.

Those who decide to stay with the C&G will mostly be better off asking for an immediate transfer out of the Gold account into the London share account which is operated by post. This pays 12.25 per cent on sums over £2,500. But they will need to know about it.

By JON ASHWORTH

INVESTORS who dealt with Peter Owen-Jackson, the former tied agent who had his assets frozen in the High Court last week, may not be eligible for any compensation if they are unable to realise their funds.

Mr Owen-Jackson was not authorised to conduct investment business under the Financial Services Act and his clients will not be covered by the Investors Compensation Scheme. This pays up to £48,000 to individual investors following the collapse of a regulated firm.

It is not yet clear how many investors he dealt with or how much money may be at stake. The Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the markets watchdog, which obtained two injunctions this week against Mr Owen-Jackson and Kentascot, his company, has launched an investigation into the affair and has appealed to investors to get in touch.

The injunctions require Mr Owen-Jackson and Kentascot to cease investment business, to disclose all assets in Britain and abroad, and not to deal in or dispose of any assets.

Mr Owen-Jackson began trading as an independent broker under the name Financial Planning Services in 1981, and dealt on a regular basis with Albany Life. He became a tied agent of Albany Life in September 1988, but the contract was ended a year later.

Mr Owen-Jackson may have been tied to another life

Investors face loss of funds after court bans tied agent

assurance company before working exclusively for Albany Life, but this could not be confirmed this week.

In a separate development, SIB has obtained similar injunctions against Randhir Singh, a former tied agent of Albany Life. The orders restrain Mr Singh from conducting investment business and from making misleading statements. He was not authorised to give investment advice.

The outlook for investors who expect some form of protection from either the government or financial legislation, appears bleaker than ever. Insurance companies are free to sign up anyone off the street as tied agents, regardless of whether they have been authorised previously or not.

All the company has to do is satisfy itself that the person is "fit and proper" to give investment advice. A string of cases this year appear to show that the system of financial regulation, set up to protect

criticised last year for failing to make proper checks after the collapse of Homes Assured, a tied agent, which sold endowment policies to council tenants. Full checks would have revealed that two directors and one former director had been involved with at least five companies already in liquidation.

Checks made by Lautro last year found that a "regrettably large" number of its members were not up to the required standard.

Mr Kit Jebens, the chief executive, has said that a significant number of members had not been doing their job as thoroughly as expected. In January, Lautro ordered the National Financial Management Corporation, a subsidiary of Target, to carry out an audit of all its tied agents. They included Garston Amhurst, which had collapsed.

Investors who stand to lose money as a result of dealing with Mr Owen-Jackson as an Albany Life representative may have some claim on the insurance company.

But others who dealt with him in another capacity, like for the purchase of property or shares, would have no claim even though he may have been a tied agent at the time. In April, SIB announced it was investigating the affairs of Anthony Weldon Tubbs, a former solicitor who was employed as a tied agent by Allied Dunbar, even though he had been struck off in 1971 for using clients' money.

Mr Tubbs was subsequently arrested, and the 20 creditors had little hint of any compensation.

Allied Dunbar, which said it had taken up several references from Mr Tubbs, said it would consider any claims sympathetically.

As it is not regulated, investors' money is not protected by the Investors Compensation Scheme, which could pay out up to £48,000 in the event of failure.

The money provided by quarter-millionaires becomes the working capital of limited companies that lend money in the form of mortgage advances. The glossy brochure does not make it clear that few of these loans are first loans on properties.

Mr Wharton said that most of the loans were second and third mortgages secured on domestic properties. Others are first mortgages to small building firms converting houses into flats.

The companies set up by Castlegate are owned and controlled by the investors, but Castlegate undertakes the administration and the management. It applies for consumer credit licences for the companies, vets the borrowers, processes the loans and collects the payments.

The money is loaned on ten-year, fixed-rate terms with the company always charging an annual percentage rate of 23.2 per cent or more for its loans.

The brochure for the fund owners plan carries the legend "high return with security". It states that "in accordance with the Consumer Credit Act of 1974, the lending company will apply for a licence to the trade department in order to carry on the business of lending monies to individuals".

In fact, it is the Office of Fair Trading that handles such licence applications. The trade department has no record of Castlegate Securities, part of the group.

Watchdog looks closer into investment that never was

BY OUR MONEY EDITOR

WHEN is an investment not an investment? That is the conundrum a company from Reading is posing to some with £250,000 to spare.

The Castlegate Group claims it gives a "20 per cent per annum no-risk return" by using investors' money to set up companies offering fixed rate mortgages at 23.2 per cent - about 7 per cent above the standard mortgage rate.

Roy Wharton, group chairman of the Reading-based company, says the Capital Fund Owners Plan does not need to be regulated by the Financial Services Act because it is not regarded as an investment.

At the Securities and Investments Board, the body that oversees the act, which came into force in 1988, a spokeswoman said that Castlegate was not authorised by any of the regulatory organisations.

But SIB was looking further into the details of the scheme, she said.

The trade and industry department confirmed that if a firm was selling an entire company it was exempt from the provisions of the Financial Services Act.

As it is not regulated, investors' money is not protected by the Investors Compensation Scheme, which could pay out up to £48,000 in the event of failure.

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Castlegate's headquarters in London Street, Reading

The OFT confirmed that Castlegate is licensed to operate consumer credit, consumer hire, credit brokerage, debt adjusting and counselling, and debt collecting businesses.

Mr Wharton said that he had never had a consumer credit licence application for one of the lending companies turned down, although he had refused to make applications for one or two people he thought were not suitable.

The cost of a licence is £400 and applicants have to fill out a seven-page form giving details of anyone who can influence or direct the way the business is run.

County court judgments and any convictions for fraud, dishonesty or violence must be listed, as must details of bankruptcies.

The OFT spokesman said it usually took eight weeks for applications to be processed. Companies cannot undertake

credit business before a licence is granted.

Mr Wharton said that Castlegate had been formed as a brokerage in 1969 and the first lending company was formed in 1972.

Records at Companies House show that Castlegate Securities was incorporated in March 1988 and operated as Loribell until July of that year.

Mr Wharton said there was no long-term commitment needed from investors, even though the money was lent at a fixed mortgage rate over ten years. If a person needed their investment back, the loans would be sold to another company.

The brochure states: "Over the past eight years, for personal reasons, three company owners have decided to withdraw their funds. In every case we have been able to sell the mortgages at their full current value to other companies."

Mr Wharton said that bor-

rowers paid from 1.75 per cent a month in interest and that Castlegate took 0.25 per cent as its management fee. Third mortgages were more expensive.

The interest rate never fell below 1.75 per cent even when bank base rates were half the current level, he added.

If interest rates dropped dramatically we might change the basis on which we lend but we would not reduce the rates."

But Mr Wharton denied that loans were risky and were made to people who could not borrow from conventional places such as banks and building societies.

"We have run this business for almost 20 years. Nobody has ever lost any money. We have been through ups and downs in interest rates and in property values, and we have kept the thing under control."

"And if there has been any problem, you know with a shortfall in a mortgage - I must say we don't have very many of them - Castlegate has met the difference so no lender has lost any money."

Mr Wharton said there was "absolutely no risk" but he said there was no insurance to ensure compensation for investors.

He then qualified his no risk statement, adding: "I must say to you in honesty, all terms are relative aren't they?"

Castlegate would have to find the funds if a loan turned sour, but he emphasised it would do so.

Larger and more experienced lenders, such as the Halifax and the Nationwide building societies, have made larger provisions against both domestic and commercial debts this year.

Typically, someone with £250,000 would make 12 or 13 loans at £20,000, said Mr Wharton. Before any more loans were granted Castlegate visited the applicants in their homes.

The majority of borrowers are from the Reading area and applied for loans from advertisements in Yellow Pages and Thompson directories.

Mr Wharton said that the individual lending companies had the charge on the properties. He had been a director of the 60 lending companies but had decided it was not "fitting" and had resigned.

The company owner was now the only person who could sign for the charge on a property to be released.

The brochure also says it should be recognised that as sole proprietors of limited companies, they have all the rights as well as the obligations in law that this implies".

Asked if he was a director of any other company, Mr Wharton replied: "Before I say no I just want to think to myself, nothing that is currently of any importance, I was a partner in a ladies fashion shop, no, not really, my whole business life is Castlegate."

The brochure also says it

forward each year to reach May 19 by 1995. Employees earning more than the single person's tax allowance currently standing at £3,005 are liable to pay tax. That means a form should be completed for anyone earning £58 a week or over.

Under a tougher policy announced in the 1989 Budget, the returns must be in by August 19.

In a bid to stamp out late tax payments and the administrative problems they cause, the deadline will be brought

another job and we need to know about that person's total earnings."

Employers paying more than £58 a week who do not receive a form from the Inland Revenue are under an obligation to obtain one from their local tax office, which is listed in the telephone directory under Inland Revenue.

The tax office also has leaflet IR53, which opens out as a wall chart explaining how to fill in the employer's returns.

A spokesman explained: "The employee could have

year for late payment are up to £1,200 for employers with up to 50 employees. There are additional penalties for long delays.

The Inland Revenue spokesman said: "There have been some problems with forms being submitted late. If an employee wants to claim a tax rebate and the tax office does not know how much has been paid the case cannot be dealt with."

"Prompt return of forms is not just for our benefit."

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A complex character at the heart of Wembley

By CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS PROFILE

Sir Brian Wolfson

SIR Brian Wolfson, the man behind Wembley, Britain's national stadium, is a workaholic who knows of only two ways to relax. "One is to read," he says. "The other is to make love." But he is usually too busy to do either.

Wolfson has other more pressing concerns on his mind. Instilled, at an early age, with his father's fighting spirit, he is not the sort of man to take the City's valuation of his stadium, arena and greyhound racing group lying down.

"My father had a very simple motto in life: no surrender," Wolfson recalls. "What he meant was that in any situation, no matter how difficult, you kept going until you had won. It left its stamp on me." Capitalised at £76 million and on a price earnings ratio of a little over 11 times earnings, Wembley is, he believes, far too cheap.

Like Richard Branson and Andrew Lloyd Webber before him, he would now like to take the company back into private hands. "If interest rates were not what they are, we would do it tomorrow," he says. "Finding the money is no problem, the problem is funding the cash flow at 16 per cent. We can't do it." But if rates were to come down he would do it in a flash. "We have looked at it quite seriously. I could even give you the numbers, but it wouldn't make you feel any better."

He was speaking from his office in the dark and dingy administration building at the heart of Wembley's 80-acre site. Fumes from lorries in the car park below, unloading equipment for a concert that night, filled the air.

His daily working environment contrasts starkly with the leather-seated luxury of the executive boxes and restaurants he had built along one side of the stadium two years ago. They are on a par with a five star hotel. More than £50 million has been spent on refurbishment and structural improvements. A further £25 million has yet to be spent.

"These boxes are better than any you'll find anywhere else in the world," he says proudly. "We spend a fortune maintaining them."

But there is no sign that any of that money has been used for Wolfson's own comfort. That would not be among his priorities. And that says a lot about the man.

Wolfson, aged 54, and knighted in the Queen's birthday honours last month, was first hailed as a whiz-kid by the national press 20 years ago, when he became joint group managing director of Granada Group at the age of 32.

He now manages to hold down the equivalent of three jobs. Each of them would be a full-time post for any normal person.

Previous chairmen of the Manpower Services Commission, each one of them able men, did it on a full-time basis. Wolfson now holds the equivalent position, in the government's renamed National Training Task Force, and manages to fit it in around a seven-days-a-week commitment to Wembley.

In his spare time he continues to oversee a diverse array of private interests spanning the worlds of shipping and property.

"I've always had a lot of energy," Wolfson says. He was a 400 metres running champion at the age of 15. "I can get

by on four or five hours sleep a night. I can sleep anywhere. Even here on the office floor. But every so often I go away completely and sleep for perhaps 12 hours in one go."

But for someone so hyperactive, he seems surprisingly at ease. He makes everyone he speaks to feel as if he has all the time in the world — even though he hasn't.

He is the sort of man you can imagine meditating in his rare moments alone in his Regents Park home. But the most he will admit to is a penchant for herbal tea. Camomile, long recommended by herbalists for its sleep-inducing qualities, is his favourite. But contrary to traditional prescription, he drinks it morning, noon and night. "You're supposed to drink it before you go to bed. I drink it all the time. I slow me down," Wolfson says.

Not seen at his best in group gatherings, he is definitely a one-to-one man. When he speaks, in a more intimate environment, his potential can be seen. Ideas and concepts tumble forth with the speed with which a mechanical device might shell peas from a pod.

Wolfson pushes himself to the limit. "I go to virtually every event at Wembley. It's a seven-days-a-week, 24 hours-a-day job. You can't run this business without attending what goes on. It has to become part of your life. It's such a vast machine and there is no motivation like the footstep of the master."

His day begins before 8am and invariably ends with a football match, race meeting or pop concert in the evening.

But this pop culture isn't as alien as most people would assume. He grew up with

"I'm a very physical person. I always try to get inside someone's head. I can usually work out what makes someone tick within minutes of meeting them"

Brian Epstein, the Beatles' manager, and Alan Syner, who ran the Cavern in Liverpool. "I went on holiday with Alan to Paris one year, and that's where he got the idea for the Cavern. He came back and opened it up."

Being chairman of Wembley is, he says, a very social job. He enjoys it enormously. "It has to be fun," he adds.

But the guests he entertains in the company's private boxes, influential though they may be, and almost always uttering superficial gratitude for their free tickets, seldom take the trouble to get to know him. "They probably see me as quite forceful, quite sharp, a very direct manager," he admits. "But not much more than that." He is, in fact, a complex man.

Wolfson, one suspects, is far more at ease with his own employees. Relationships there are less pretentious. As he rushes around the stadium at night — "It's half a mile around the top rim," he says — he looks more like a security man than the chairman of the company. His staff find him approachable, are mostly on first name terms and are fiercely loyal. He has had the

it afterwards. Communication is of paramount importance."

Praising what he preaches, he addresses his entire permanent workforce of 300 once every three months. "We sit down together, I discuss what is happening, they shout at me, I shout at them. We have a session. They are remarkably forthcoming.

"If we have actually improved anything at Wembley, it is the people. You can have good people but if they are not motivated you might as well have bad people. If people see I care enough to be here all the time, that affects their own attitude about being here."

Despite the professed sociality of his job, he seldom eats with his guests — "I might have a bowl of fruit" — and he never drinks on the premises.

"If you came to lunch here it would be dry. The staff aren't allowed to drink, and if they can't drink we believe that the manager shouldn't either."

If he is handed a glass of champagne while socialising he will accept it and then put it, untouched, discreetly to one side.

Ironically, given the emphasis he places on communica-

tion, his ongoing dissatisfaction with the City stems from confusion about the very nature of Wembley's business.

"It's really a property company," says one analyst. Wolfson will disagree. "No one really knows anything about his strategy," says another. Yet Wolfson is only too eager to end such ignorance.

"We are a leisure company, with three core businesses. Sports and entertainment, exhibitions and conferences and services to the leisure industry, which threads through the whole thing."

As for future strategy, each of the company's three facets has, he says, room for expansion.

The Wembley complex is still being developed. Building work to double its exhibition space should be completed before the end of the year. In the autumn, work will begin on a leisure centre with a bingo hall, multiplex cinema, bowling alley and discotheque.

The Wembley site will not, Wolfson says, be operating to capacity for another six or seven years. "There's plenty still to go for here."

He is adamant that the company will not diversify "from what it does best — we are very brutal about sticking to what we know".

As for the property element, it is, he says, "a brutal discipline of alternate value", which supports the business.

"If a site can't work as a race track, can it be a hypermarket or something else? But it is not property in the normal sense."

"We look at it as underpinning an earnings performance, not as instead of. And we are unique as a leisure company in always showing our property profits as extraordinary."

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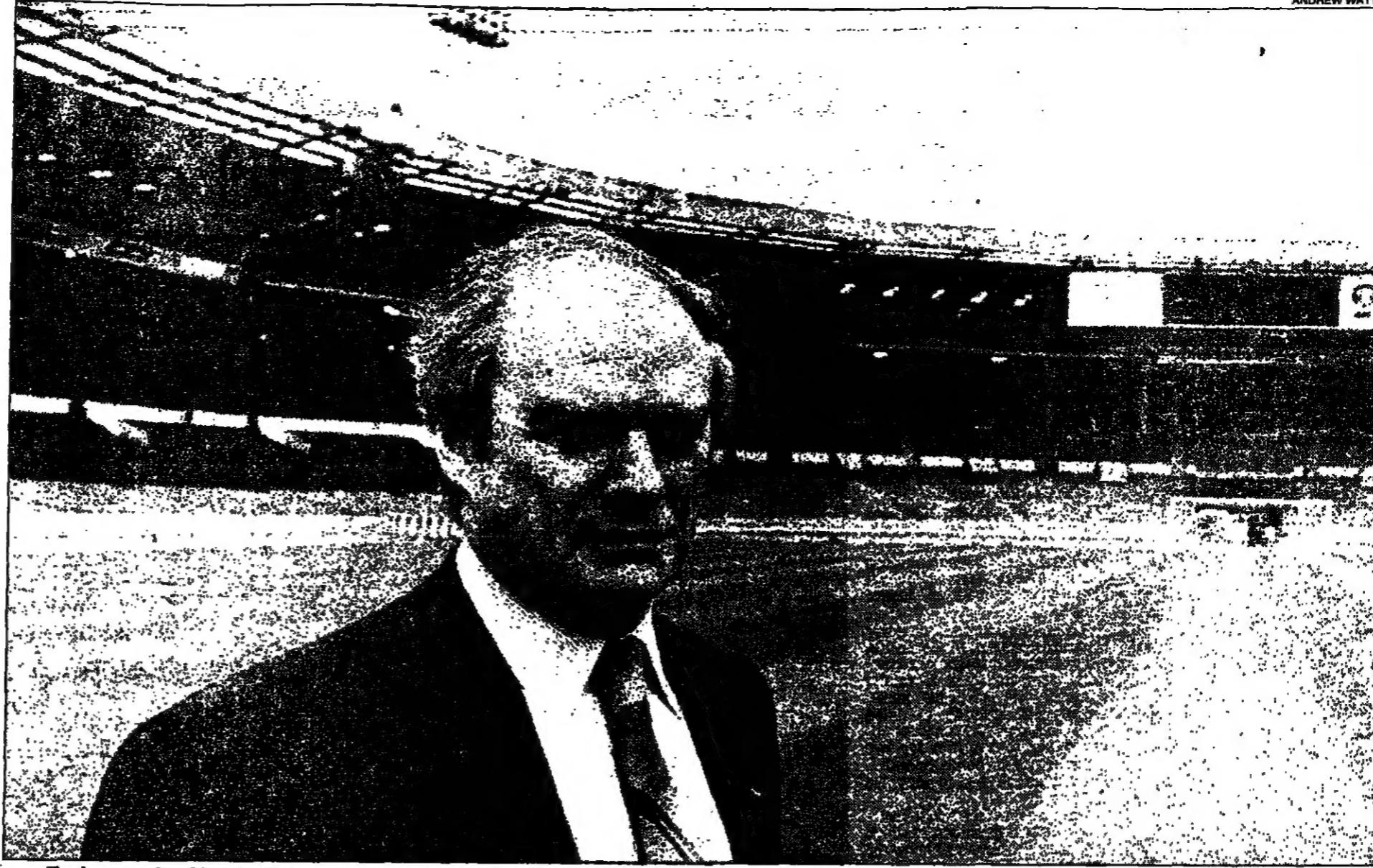
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Too busy to relax: Sir Brian Wolfson, the workaholic head of Wembley, holds down the equivalent to three jobs, each enough to keep a less active man fully employed

20 years. As befits the man who leads the government's restructuring programme for the long-term unemployed, and is also on the board of Wharton, the American business school, he has strong views on management.

"A manager should be someone who tells you what they are going to do and then goes away and does it. Not someone who tells you about what goes on. It has to become part of your life. It's such a vast machine and there is no motivation like the footstep of the master."

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WEEKEND

MONEY

SUMMARY

Returns of 20% promised

A CLAIM by an investment scheme to give a return of 20 per cent per year at no risk is investigated by *Weekend Money* this week. The Capital Fund Owners Plan, run by The Castlegate Group of Reading, Berkshire, uses mortgages to deliver the higher returns. But neither the scheme nor the company are authorised. Page 50

Wolf clothing



In his first major interview since he took control of Wembley four years ago, Sir Brian Wilson talks to Carol Leonard about business, sex and rock and roll. Page 51

Fly-drive

Tourists who hire a car when on holiday in America should make sure their insurance is up to scratch. Page 47

Property rush

House values may be ready to rise again, but investors should be wary of rushing into property unit trusts. Opinions about the trusts are divided, and savers who buy the shares too soon could be in for an unpleasant surprise. Page 44

Wireless tone

Cable and Wireless has launched a personal equity plan which splits investment between the company's shares and unit trusts. Other corporate Peps have been criticised for limiting choice, but the new plan could set the tone for the future. Page 46

Loans race

Hopes for an early cut in interest rates have not dampened enthusiasm for fixed rate mortgages which lock borrowers in below market levels. *Weekend Money* looks at the latest offers. Page 46

Your Views



Adventure holidays are not without their risks, as one *Weekend Money* reader found. Others look at the problem of inadequate insurance, along with the intricacies of selling works of art at auction, and shops which promise zero per cent interest. Page 49

High stakes

The number of landlords in Britain is booming, as high interest rates drive owners to rent out their homes. Others are taking advantage of the slump in property prices to buy homes and rent them out to help pay off the mortgage. Page 48

Rule changes

Next week the board of the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) will be considering changes to its rules to strengthen the supervision by insurance companies of tied agents. Page 48

The move follows concern about the activities of some appointed representatives. Three companies have already been required to carry out compliance checks on their agents this year. Reliance Mutual is likely to be next as it will have to show Lautro that its representatives are complying with every single rule. Page 48

Meanwhile two unauthorised investment advisers who are both former tied agents, have raised new fears about financial regulation. Page 50

Round-the-clock answers to questions of finance at the end of a telephone

By WILLIAM GREAVES

JOHN Beveridge is the sort of person who has to get up when he wakes. So at five o'clock one morning, he climbed out of bed at home in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and rang his bank.

About 180 miles away, behind locked doors in the Arlington Business Centre on the outskirts of Leeds, Karen McKenzie, aged 21, sat in readiness. She had been there since midnight. "Good morning," she said, in a cheerful, friendly tone. "Firstdirect Bank, how can we help you?"

There are those who have seen advertisements for Britain's only 24-hour, 365-day branchless bank, but disbelieve its claims of instant, round-the-clock service. The call and ask: "Are you an answer phone?"

But on this occasion, there was no such scepticism. Mr Beveridge, the marketing manager of a computer company, was a regular customer. He gave his name, address and postcode, to which Miss McKenzie's computer directed her to ask him for two letters from his chosen password. She was not allowed to know the full word.

The machine then asked one of three personal questions, to which only the customer could know the answer.

Mr Beveridge wanted Firstdirect, which is a subsidiary of Midland Bank, to pay off his credit and charge cards. Not necessarily straight away, of course. A couple of them were urgent, but Access could wait a while, so would Karen please mark that bill for payment in a couple of weeks' time? "Of course, sir."

Since about 1.30am, there had been just three staff holding the fort: Miss McKenzie, her colleague Adele Boudouko, and Andrew Wharton, the man in charge. But at 11pm, seven hours after many high street banks had closed their doors to the public, the floor, 50,000 sq ft of it, had been milling with people and flickering with electronic messages in an atmosphere of almost uncanny anachronism, as though someone had forgotten to sound the hooter which should have sent them scuttling home to the bosom of their families and the solace of television.

No less than 25 people manned the phones and computers of the call centre. Three more staff dealt with financial services such as personal loans and mortgages, yet another three coped with customer care, including loss of cards and fraud, while two men looked after the bank's computer system. On the other end of the telephone lines were about 50,000 customers who were similarly not prepared to observe the strictures of banking's traditional hours.

Mike Harris, the bank's chief executive, is cagey on figures. He said that customers who wake up



Night shift: Karen McKenzie offers a cheerful greeting and helpful service, no matter what time a customer calls Firstdirect Bank

in the night fretting over the state of their current account balance or realising that they needed a loan to complete a breakfast-time deal.

Mr Cromack said: "Let's see what the score is at the moment. Denis is available, David and John are dealing with clients, Steven's on wrap-up, that means he is processing whatever he's been asked to set in motion before making himself available to deal with his next customer...." Ten operators were talking to clients. It was half an hour to midnight.

High on the wall, a screen spelled out the latest exhortation: "Personal loans opened this month: 76. Well done!" Another message displayed the number of incoming calls awaiting answer. It had not varied from nought for the last two hours.

The vast open plan room is part of a modern commercial estate and its electronic impersonality is softened by an abundance of exotic plants. The locked doors and the physical absence of customers give the room an intimate, bunker-like atmosphere. First names are used and the daytime creche of anything up to 30 children adds to the family ambience. Mr Cromack said: "We expect calls to be answered within ten seconds. Existing customers call on our 0345 number, which means they pay for a local call and we pick up the bill for the rest, and people

position, but that procedure is also under constant check.

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Although his department closes down for a few hours at night, a number of experts are provided with mobile phones and paid a £12 disturbance fee if they have to be woken to provide a customer with advice.

By the time of the second call from Berlin, Pam Simpson and her husband, Gordon, were nearing the end of a wearisome 400-mile car journey from the south coast to Edinburgh at the start of their holiday.

Mrs Simpson's call came

through at 12.50am. "We've got a couple of charge card accounts and we've just remembered that we failed to pay them before we set off," she explained.

"It still seems a bit odd talking to a bank at this time of the morning but it's nice to get the problem sorted out before going to bed."

Her call was received by Jane Oldroyd, aged 26, who had driven to work from her home in nearby

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